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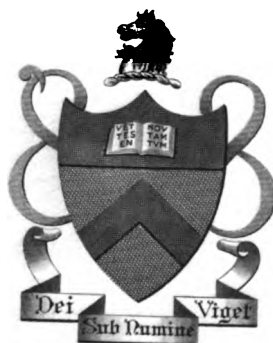
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ANTIDUMPING LEGISLATION.

In view of the general and widespread interest in proposed legislation to prevent what is popularly known as "dumping," the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has prepared the following general statement on the legislation in Canada, South Africa, and Australia:

In Canada the antidumping law and regulations are made a part of the customs tariff and their administration a part of the work of the customs authorities. The customs tariff of 1907 contained the following provisions on this subject:

SEC. 6. In the case of articles exported to Canada of a class or kind made or produced in Canada, if the export or actual selling price to an importer in Canada be less than the fair market value of the same article when sold for home consumption in the usual and ordinary course in the country whence exported to Canada at the time of its exportation to Canada, there shall, in addition to the duties otherwise established, be levied, collected, and paid on such article, on its importation into Canada, a special duty (or dumping duty) equal to the difference between the said selling price of the article for export and the said fair market value thereof for home consumption; and such special duty (or dumping duty) shall be levied, collected, and paid on such article although it is not otherwise dutiable.

Provided, That the said special duty shall not exceed 15 per cent ad valorem in any case.

Provided also, That the following goods shall be exempt from such special duty, viz: (a) Goods whereon the duties otherwise established are equal to 50 per cent ad valorem; (b) goods of a class subject to excise duty in Canada; (c) sugar refined in the United Kingdom; (d) binder twine or twine for harvest binders manufactured from New Zealand hemp,istle, or tampico fiber, sisal grass, or sunn, or a mixture of any two or more of them, of single ply and measuring not exceeding 600 feet to the pound.

Provided further, That excise duties shall be disregarded in estimating the market value of goods for the purposes of special duty when the goods are entitled to entry under the British preferential tariff.

(2) "Export price" or "selling price" in this section shall be held to mean and include the exporter's price for the goods, exclusive of all charges thereon after their shipment from the place whence exported directly to Canada.

(3) If at any time it appears to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council, on a report from the Minister of Customs, that the payment of the special duty by this section provided for is being evaded by the shipment of goods on con-

shipment without sale prior to such shipment, the Governor in Council may in any case or class of cases authorize such action as is deemed necessary to collect on such goods or any of them the same special duty as if the goods had been sold to an importer in Canada prior to their shipment to Canada.

(4) If the full amount of any special duty of customs is not paid on goods imported, the customs entry thereof shall be amended and the deficiency paid upon the demand of the collector of customs.

(5) The Minister of Customs may make such regulations as are deemed necessary for carrying out the provisions of this section and for the enforcement thereof.

(6) Such regulations may provide for the temporary exemption from special duty of any article or class of articles, when it is established to the satisfaction of the Minister of Customs that such articles are not made or sold in Canada in substantial quantities and offered for sale to all purchasers on equal terms under like conditions, having regard to the custom and usage of trade.

(7) Such regulations may also provide for the exemption from special duty of any article when the difference between the fair market value and the selling price thereof to the importer as aforesaid amounts only to a small percentage of its fair market value.

From time to time since that date regulations by order in council and by the Department of Customs have been issued on the subject of special duty, or "dumping duty," as it is called. For some years the Canadian regulations provided that when it appeared from the invoice that the purchase price was more than $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent (or 5 per cent in the case of some iron and steel products) lower than the fair market value, the dumping clause should be immediately applied. For certain products no exemption allowance at all was granted. New regulations were put in force on September 1, 1914. The dumping duty was made applicable in all cases when the difference between the fair market value and the selling price of the goods to the importer in Canada should exceed 5 per cent of their fair market value. The entire difference is taken into account for dumping duty purposes when exceeding 5 per cent. The dumping duty under the customs tariff applies, *without exemption allowance*, to articles of a class or kind made in Canada when admitted free of ordinary duty, and also to round rolled wire rods of iron or steel.

The amount of any advance in the market value of goods between the time of their purchase by the importer and the date of their exportation to Canada is not subject to dumping duty, provided the goods have been exported in the usual course and the actual date of purchase is established to the satisfaction of the collector of customs by contracts or other sufficient documents produced for his inspection and attested to. In computing the difference for customs-duty purposes between the "fair market value" in the country of export and the "selling price to the importer in Canada," the fair market value of goods is estimated on the usual credit basis, except when the article is universally sold in the country of export for cash only, in which case the fair market value is estimated on a cash basis. A bona fide discount for cash not exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, when allowed and deducted by the exporter on his invoice, may be allowed in estimating the fair market value of goods for duty purposes. For example, hats sold for home consumption in this country at \$100 on credit, subject to 7 per cent cash discount, would be liable to dumping duty if sold to a purchaser in Canada on usual credit at \$93, but would not be liable to dumping duty if sold to a purchaser in Canada for \$93 cash. Machinery sold for home consumption in this country at \$100 on credit, subject to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent cash discount, would not be liable to

dumping duty if sold to a purchaser in Canada for \$93 cash, as the difference does not exceed 5 per cent after raising the *cash* price (\$93) by 2½ per cent to its *credit* equivalent.

When the invoice shows that the purchase price is the same as the fair market value, but complaint is made or suspicion is aroused, a special agent of the Canadian Government makes investigation to ascertain the home market value. If the seller of the merchandise is in the United States, a special agent often goes to his place of business and asks to see his books, price lists, etc. The Customs Department of Canada has accumulated a considerable mass of information in regard to the prices of many classes of commodities and is often able to determine the fair market value of merchandise; but hearings are usually granted by the Commissioner of Customs to dissatisfied parties, and a special agent is sometimes sent to make additional investigations if there appears to be any ground for believing that the Customs Department has been misinformed as to the home market value of merchandise.

The Canadian law and the regulations under it were taken as a model for the antidumping clause which was introduced into the Underwood tariff bill for consideration in 1913. This section was included in the bill as it passed the House of Representatives, but was cut out in the Senate Committee on Finance.

In 1914, the Government of the Union of South Africa included an antidumping clause in its new tariff act. This clause, likewise, was modeled almost exactly after the Canadian clause. The South African act provides that in the case of goods imported of a class or kind made or produced in the union, if the export or actual selling price is less than the true current value of the same goods when sold for home consumption in the usual and ordinary course in the country from which they are exported, there may be collected, in addition to the duties otherwise prescribed, a dumping duty equal to the difference, which dumping duty shall not in any case exceed 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

The Australian Government as far back as 1906 enacted legislation against dumping. The Australian provisions are included in what is known as the Australian industries preservation act, which is the Australian law against monopoly and unfair competition in general. Under that act unfair competition has in all cases reference to competition with those Australian industries the preservation of which, in the opinion of the comptroller general or a justice, as the case may be, is advantageous to the Commonwealth, having due regard to the interests of producers, workers, and consumers. Competition is deemed to be unfair, unless the contrary is proved, if—

(a) Under ordinary circumstances of trade it would probably lead to the Australian goods being no longer produced or being withdrawn from the market or being sold at a loss unless produced at an inadequate remuneration for labor; or

(b) The means adopted by the person importing or selling the imported goods are, in the opinion of the comptroller general or a justice, as the case may be, unfair in the circumstances; or

(c) The competition would probably, or does in fact, result in an inadequate remuneration for labor in the Australian industry; or

(d) The competition would probably, or does in fact, result in creating any substantial disorganization in Australian industry or throwing workers out of employment; or

(e) The imported goods have been purchased abroad by or for the importer from the manufacturer, or some person acting for or in combination with him, or accounting to him, at prices greatly below their ordinary cost of production where produced or market price where purchased; or

(f) The imported goods are imported by or for the manufacturer, or some person acting for or in combination with him or accounting to him, and are being sold in Australia at a price which is less than gives the person importing or selling them a fair profit upon their fair foreign market value, or their fair selling value if sold in the country of production, together with all charges after shipment from the place whence the goods are exported directly to Australia (including customs duty).

In determining whether the competition is unfair the Australian Government takes into consideration the management, processes, the plant, and the machinery employed or adopted in the Australian industry affected by the competition, and these are required to be reasonably efficient, effective, and up to date. The Comptroller General, whenever he has received a complaint in writing and has reason to believe that any person, either singly or in combination with any other person, within or beyond the Commonwealth, is importing into Australia goods with the intent to destroy or injure any Australian industry by their sale or disposal within the Commonwealth in unfair competition with any Australian goods, may certify to the Government accordingly. In making such certification the Comptroller General is required to set forth in detail the grounds of unfairness in the competition.

The comptroller general, moreover, is required, before making his certificate, to give the importer an opportunity to show cause why the certificate should not be made, and to furnish him with a copy of the complaint. Upon receipt of the certificate the Government may refer to a justice the investigation and determination of the question whether the imported goods are being imported with the intent alleged, and, if so, whether the importation of the goods should be prohibited, either absolutely or subject to any specified conditions or restrictions or limitations. While such a question is the subject of investigation, the goods involved are not allowed to be imported, unless the importer gives a sufficient bond or other security. The courts, in such cases, are required to base their decisions on the substantial merits, without regard to legal forms or technicalities, or whether the evidence before them is in accordance with the law of evidence or not. The determination of the courts is final and conclusive and without appeal, and can not be questioned in any way. Notifications of the findings of the courts are required to be published in the official gazette, and if the courts shall have found that the imported goods are being imported with the intent alleged, and that their importation should be prohibited or restricted, the published notice has the same effect as a proclamation under the customs act prohibiting or restricting the importation of the merchandise.

It should be pointed out that while the Canadian and South African antidumping provisions are part of the customs laws, the special or antidumping duties are to be considered not as ordinary customs duties, but rather as penalties to prevent unfair competition with industries within the two dominions. They were included in the customs laws, and regulations under them are issued as customs regulations probably for the reason that the customs administration appears to be the most effective means of administering the antidump-

ing laws. Moreover, the question of fair market value is always involved, and that is a question with which the customs authorities, for regular duty purposes, are always having to deal. In Canada and South Africa the question of unfair competition is just as much involved as it is in Australia. In the latter Commonwealth, however, dumping is treated purely as a phase of the laws of unfair competition, and the administration of the antidumping legislation is intrusted primarily to the courts in the same manner as any other laws aiming at the prevention of unfair competition. The results are substantially the same under either system of administration, and it is merely a question as to the best means of enforcing the laws.

CALIFORNIA-BRAZIL TRAFFIC THROUGH CANAL.

A steamer which was recently sent by W. R. Grace & Co. from San Francisco, to proceed through the Panama Canal to the east coast of South America, is the first to be employed in traffic over that route. Plans have not yet been made for any service extending beyond this initial voyage. A miscellaneous cargo was loaded to be taken down the west coast as far as Balboa; the vessel will go through the canal in ballast, and a full cargo of Brazilian coffee will be brought from Santos on the return voyage.

Much interest has been shown in California in this voyage as a possible means of inaugurating regular service between the east coast of South America and the Pacific coast of the United States. Enthusiasm regarding the possibilities of trade relations has also been shown, it is reported by Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, of the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in connection with the important exhibit that Brazil has at the Panama-California Exposition at San Diego.

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

John Edward Jones, Esq., formerly American consul general for Italy, recently promoted to Lyons, France, will be in Washington until about November 15, 1915, where he may be addressed in care of the Consular Bureau, Department of State, by American business men, firms, and organizations who desire information regarding the promotion of American trade with those sections of the world in which Mr. Jones has served.

ONTARIO NOTES SOLD IN NEW YORK.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Toronto, Canada, Sept. 24.]

The treasurer of Ontario has just borrowed in New York \$3,000,000 for 9 months at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum to pay off maturing Ontario treasury bills at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in London. This follows a loan of \$2,500,000 obtained in New York last week by the city of Toronto for 9 months at 5 per cent.

Telephone systems in China exist at Shanghai, Hongkong, Tientsin, Peking, Dairen, Mukden, Hankow, Soochow, Tsingtau, Kinkiang, Sanjoabu, Harbin, Antung, and Hangchow.

GREEK CURRANT MARKET.

[Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Sept. 4; supplementing dispatches in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 4 and Sept. 9, 1915.]

Contrary to all forecasts, even those made as late as August 1, which predicted a rather larger harvest of currants than normal, the actual harvesting, which is now practically finished, seems to prove that the crop of 1915 will turn out hardly 130,000 tons of fruit altogether as compared with a normal of about 155,000 tons.

Quality of the Fruit.

The quality of the fruit, too, which promised during the summer to be good, proves with harvesting to be only medium. It appears that the disease of peronospora, which appeared in the vineyards in early summer in apparently mild form, actually caused poor nutrition of the fruit, with the result that much of it failed to mature, and fell off at ripening season. In addition, the fruit was caught by rains in several of the provinces while it was upon the drying grounds, and large quantities of it became rain-damaged, especially in the Pyrgos-Catacolo regions, from which Provincial and Amalias grades of currants are mostly shipped to the United States.

Condition of the Local Market.

Many of the local currant exporters made forward sales on the foreign markets, some as early as last May. These sales were practically all made at low figures, the merchants apparently calculating that with a large harvest predicted and with foreign markets restricted by European hostilities the market would be flat and prices nominal. In view of the short crop, however, the growers are holding back their fruit and demanding prices unknown on this market for many years. Merchants who have made forward sales for September delivery must find fruit to fill their foreign engagements and are compelled to buy at whatever price they can. Most of them supposed that they had covered themselves safely by contracts drawn with middlemen for delivery of fruit at an agreed price in September. Many middlemen, being unable to secure the fruit from growers except at great loss to themselves, have forfeited their contracts and left the exporters to fill their foreign engagements as best they may.

Prices Prevailing on Market.

To-day's prices, as given by two responsible export firms, are as follows, in shillings (24½ cents) per hundredweight (112 pounds):

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Provincials	21	4	Gulf	26	3
Amalias	21	5	Gulf fine	26	6
Amalias fine	22	5	Gulf choice	26	10
Amalias choice	23	3	Gulf choicest	27	0
Amalias choicest	24	0	Vostizza	27	3
Patras	24	10	Vostizza fine	27	9
Patras fine	25	8	Vostizza choice	29	0
Patras choice	26	6	Vostizza choicest	30	0
Patras choicest	26	9	Vostizza shade	30	6

These prices are higher by 5 to 8 shillings than the prices prevailing for same grades on October 1, 1914, when the local market had recovered from the shock of war, and had become fairly firm for 1914-15 crop.

GROWTH OF COOPERATION IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Sept. 14.]

The report of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society for the first half of the current year shows that the volume of business transacted was greater than in any corresponding period in the past. All records were broken. To some extent this was due to the higher market prices of goods, but in nearly every department the quantities of goods sold showed large increases. The net sales for the six months amounted to \$26,388,577, this being an increase of \$4,377,061 over the first six months of 1914, or 19.8 per cent.

In the productive departments the value of the output was \$8,652,705, an increase of \$2,109,141, or 32.2 per cent, over the corresponding period of the preceding year. The flour mills of the society flourished as never before. For the year ended June, 1915, they delivered to the retail societies 1,388,480 barrels, an increase of 169,596 barrels over the year ended June, 1914. The society has been milling wheat at the rate of fully 4,500,000 bushels per annum. This great quantity, based upon the average production of wheat in Canada (the source of supply), would require 250,000 acres to produce. The question of securing land for the production of their own wheat supply has been receiving the attention of the board of directors. Since the starting of their wheat depot at Winnipeg in 1906 they have purchased 17,194,556 bushels, for which \$17,725,180, exclusive of charges, has been paid.

The profits of the Wholesale Society on its entire trade for the past half year amounted to \$1,301,833, from which the directors have recommended a dividend of 10 pence (20.3 cents) per pound (\$4.86) on purchases.

No little importance is attached to the economic significance of this growth of cooperation in a time of stress. It seems to indicate an increasing tendency of the public to get as close as possible to the sources of supply, in the matter of food products at least, and affords clear evidence of the breaking down of the opposition to co-operative trading. Both as to the production and distribution of goods the cooperative movement is a positive force in Scotland, and the distributive societies and agencies are likely to become greater commercial factors year after year.

Census of Manufactures for Pocatello, Idaho.

The census of manufactures for the city of Pocatello, Idaho, is the subject of a preliminary statement issued by the United States Bureau of the Census, in which it gives a general summary for the industries of that city. The capital invested in 1914 amounted to \$2,213,000, and the value of the products totaled \$1,876,000. Other figures presented are: Number of establishments, 19; persons engaged in manufactures, 876; proprietors and firm members, 18; salaried employees, 76; wage earners (average number), 782; primary horsepower, 3,828; services, \$875,000; salaries, \$93,000; wages, \$782,000; materials, \$864,000; value added by manufacture (value of products less cost of materials), \$1,012,000.

DEPRESSION IN FAR EASTERN COAL TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 19.]

One of the results in the Far East of the war in Europe has been extraordinary ups and downs in the coal trade, the export trade in Japanese coal and the demand for Japanese coal in Hongkong being considered general barometers of the trade. For a time after the declaration of war there was extraordinary demand for coal of all sorts in the Far East. Large stocks were accumulated at Hongkong and various other important shipping and industrial centers, and prices of the fuel ran high.

Later exports of coal from Japan were restricted by certain conditions imposed by the Japanese Government, Manila, and other Philippine ports especially being affected (see Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Nov. 23, 1914). For a time the situation in the Philippines was serious inasmuch as there was considerable doubt as to whether or not Philippine railways and power plants and other public services, not to mention great tobacco and other manufacturing establishments, could be properly served. The removal of these Japanese restrictions (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 6, 1915) served as the turning point in the general fuel situation. Since that time the price of fuel on the whole has declined materially and the demand for coal in Hongkong, Manila, and other Asiatic ports has steadily declined.

Of the coal coming to Hongkong around 80 per cent usually is brought under annual contract between the producers and the various steamship companies, dockyards, refineries, and other industries, the contracts usually being made in Japan or in the home ports of the companies concerned. Of the rest of the annual imports a few local industries take a large part. Even in these industries, however, consumption has been less than usual, while the amount of coal taken by the various shipping lines is far below normal. The result is that there are now on hand in Hongkong stocks of about 100,000 tons, as compared with a normal stock of from 45,000 to 50,000 tons. One-third of the present stock is of Kaiping or other Chinese coal, most of which is intended for Canton.

The regular shipment of Japanese coal to Hongkong by the largest Japanese coal interests ceased in the third week of July, and further shipments will not be undertaken until the situation is materially improved. Imports of Japanese coal in various Far Eastern ports have decreased from 30 to 50 per cent in the past few months.

Japanese collieries have announced a 20 per cent reduction in their output, but stocks on hand continue to increase, the latest newspaper figures indicating 546,000 tons on hand at the mines and 738,000 tons on hand in the Moji and Wakamatsu markets, a total of 1,284,000 tons, or at least 1,300,000 tons when stocks in other Japanese markets are included. Freight rates have had a material influence upon the situation, rates from Australia to Hongkong at present averaging about \$5 gold per ton. Rates from Moji to Hongkong, usually taken as the basic rates for all local freights in the Far East, have recently averaged 3 yen, or \$1.50 gold, per ton—substantially twice the usual rates. Such rates, of course, mean comparatively high rates for coal in Hongkong in spite of depression in the trade and overproduction in Japan.

CORRECTED FIGURES FOR ARGENTINE OIL OUTPUT.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Aug. 13.]

The Argentine Minister of Agriculture states that the figures for the output of the Comodoro Rivadavia oil fields, published in La Nacion of Buenos Aires [which were reduced to American equivalents and published in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 27, 1915], were actually liters and not cubic meters, as stated in the newspaper article (1 cubic meter=1,000 liters). The correct figures are as follows, in barrels of 42 gallons:

Wells.	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	Jan. 1- Mar. 26, 1915.
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
Number 2.....	11,784	714	422	6,801	2,380	20,786	8,353
Number 3.....	623						
Number 4.....	6,424	19,340	1,916		105,091	111,565	20,940
Number 7.....		699	10,781	28,004	8,045	15,512	3,649
Number 8.....				12,202	7,777	55,900	26,323
Number 9.....					5,286		
Number 11.....					1,844	17,738	3,667
Number 12.....						28,542	417
Number 13.....					95	17,524	4,151
Number 14.....						7,933	13,757
Number 15.....							4,078
Total.....	18,831	20,753	13,119	47,007	130,618	275,500	85,344

In 1907 and 1908 the only well working was No. 2, and the yield in the two years was 101 barrels and 11,472 barrels, respectively. The grand total of the output of all the wells from the commencement of extraction in 1907 to March 26 of the current year is 602,746 barrels.

CONDITIONS IN CANADIAN NORTHWEST.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 13.]

As a result of this year's harvesting operations, general business throughout western Canada is expected to show a pronounced improvement because of the money that the farmers will receive from the sale of their grain. This winter obligations are likely to be generally reduced, this applying not only to debts in connection with the purchase of implements, but to all outstanding liabilities. The farmers in western Canada are economizing to-day as never before, and will probably continue to do so for some time to come. At the same time there is a point beyond which economy can not pass, and necessary purchases will have to be made. Stocks of goods throughout the west have been seriously depleted, and these will have to be at least partly replaced to meet the needs of the coming winter. In consequence a gradual improvement may be expected in orders from dealers and sales to the people.

So far as the sale of implements is concerned, binders are practically the only article in demand. While the sale this year has been carefully restricted by importers, the need of these machines to cope with the big crop was so imperative that fully twice as many were sold as last year. Even under these circumstances the number disposed of was not as great as in 1910, 1911, or 1912, though the need for them is greater. Probably the number sold was about three-fourths of that in the years mentioned.

VINTAGE PROSPECTS IN EASTERN FRANCE.

[Consular Agent N. Chapuis, Dijon, France, Aug. 21.]

In the consular district of Lyon, the Departments of Côte d'Or, Saône et Loire, Jura, Doubs, and Haute-Saône are important wine-producing centers, and the situation in regard to the 1915 crop may be summed up as follows:

Considerable damage has been done to the vines in the Department of Côte d'Or by mildew and various plant diseases, which has been aggravated still further by the lack of labor and chemicals with which the damage might have been repaired in time. Excessive rain and premature cold have also impaired the prospects of a full crop. Nevertheless, the percentage of a normal crop may be taken at 80 per cent for ordinary table wine and at 40 per cent for better classes. The harvesting will be in full progress on or about September 15, and the quality will be good. However, prices are already from 30 to 40 per cent above those of last year and are still increasing.

In the Department of Saône et Loire the average for the entire Department will be about 55 per cent of the normal crop, while in the Department of Jura, where plant disease was attacked in proper time and where there was no shortage of labor, the crop will be about equal to that of normal years.

Heavy rainfall and premature cold are the main reasons for the crop in the Department of Doubs being only 20 per cent of that in ordinary times, while mildew accounts for a loss of 50 per cent for the crop in the Department of Haute-Saône.

To sum up the prospects for the five departments for 1915, it may be said that they will amount to about 50 per cent of that in normal times, and the prices will be 40 per cent higher.

REDUCED EXPORTS OF COAL FROM NAGASAKI AND MOJI.

[Consul E. Carleton Baker, Nagasaki, Japan, Aug. 16.]

There has been a marked decrease in the exportation of coal this year from the ports of Nagasaki and Moji. During the six months ended June 30, 1914, the combined exports of coal from these two places amounted to 604,695 tons, while those for the corresponding period of 1915 amounted to only 277,215 tons. Not only were the exports less, but the coal supplied to foreign vessels has decreased in almost the same ratio.

Collieries have, therefore, limited their output to meet the new conditions. In spite of this, however, the markets are greatly overstocked. The collieries have a large stock of coal which they are unable to dispose of, and considerable stocks have accumulated not only at Nagasaki, Moji, and Wakamatsu, but also at Hongkong, where the surplus is greater than ever before. It is estimated that the amount of coal already stocked at these places exceeds one and a quarter million tons.

The intense competition lately offered in South China by dealers in Chinese coal has probably affected the situation to a certain degree, and it is likely that this factor will become increasingly important from year to year as the Chinese develop their own coal fields.

SOUTH ASIA FREIGHT RATES.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 14.]

While there has been a temporary easing up in the demand for tonnage from Hongkong to the Pacific coast of the United States, the demand for tonnage on most other routes continues with little or no abatement and on some routes it is stronger than ever. The demand for freight space from Hongkong to the Philippines and to Australia is very strong and the shortage of accommodations has seriously interfered with some lines of trade. On the run from Japan to Australia by way of Hongkong the demand for tonnage is greater than anything of the sort ever experienced in the trade. This traffic is largely in the control of Japanese companies, though an English company maintains a regular service with the same vessels it ran previous to the war. The Japanese concerns have increased the number of vessels regularly in the service materially, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, which formerly had the *Tango Maru*, the *Hitachi Maru*, and the *Nikko Maru* in the service, now also maintaining the *Totomi Maru* and the *Tientsin Maru* on the same run and preparing to take other vessels from other services. Japanese cargo for Australia includes considerable grain, phosphates, and cement, as well as silk and other piece goods, matches, furniture, and other goods of ordinary Japanese export.

Freights along the China coast have risen in an unprecedented manner and are at a point which materially influences trade in American flour. A number of vessels which formerly served the Hongkong trade north and to Formosa are now in the Hongkong-Saigon-Singapore trade. Rates on rice from Bangkok to Hongkong, which were 25 cents local currency per picul (133½ pounds) in the fall of 1913, and 22 cents in June, 1914, are now from 45 to 51 cents local currency per picul, according to the course of the market recently. Rates from Saigon to Hongkong, which in June were 19 cents per picul as a normal rate, and fell to 14 cents per picul in June, 1914, are now from 36 to 40 cents per picul. A ship of around 1,300 tons net now charters for around \$15 local currency per ton per month, as compared with about \$7 local currency per ton a year ago. There is a strong demand for shipping for service along the south Asiatic coast, and a number of vessels have been purchased from other services for use along the coast, including several out-of-date mail boats. Ship building concerns in Hongkong have in hand quite a number of vessels for local services hereabouts, including a steamship intended for the cold-storage trade between Singapore and Bangkok.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT ISSUES HANDBOOK.

"Cuba: What she has to offer to the Investor or the Home-seeker," is the title of a 73-page, finely illustrated booklet recently issued by the Cuban Government. It contains valuable information concerning the island's resources, industries, railways, cities, etc. Copies may be had on application to the "Minister of Cuba, Washington, D. C."

MARKET FOR AMERICAN TOYS IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul H. D. Van Sant, Dunfermline, Sept. 2.]

The attention of American toy manufacturers is directed to the depleted stock of toys in Scotland, with the idea of introducing a new supply of American toys for the holiday trade if practicable.

The heretofore large stock of European toys seemed to command the Scottish market, some shops dealing exclusively in them, though the English, American, and Japanese were securing a share of the trade. A leading toy dealer explained that owing to the war many British toy dealers and makers are giving attention to more important matters, and "now that the stock is almost exhausted and much space for new and varied toys could be found, there should be a much increased demand for American toys under these reverse conditions, provided they could be sent in time for the Christmas trade, not forgetting the right assortment at prices to meet the times." This dealer has already sent in an order for American toy express wagons at our suggestion along with other orders, and hopes to get this first order on hand for Christmas. Animals and dolls especially were conspicuous by their absence from the various shops visited. Like conditions in different parts of the district leads the writer to suggest that Scotland might be canvassed to advantage in the interest of American toys.

Toys from the United States are said to be higher in price than others; yet the novelty, durability, and finish of the American toy is usually a drawing card. All things being equal, especially under present conditions, the toys from the United States should easily take first place until at least the home trade is ready to supply a larger share of the demand. Once established, the trade is likely to remain to a greater or less degree, as the Scotch do not easily change after a permanent trade is established.

HARVARD EXPEDITION REACHES CANARIES.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, Aug. 16.]

The Kitty A West African Islands Expedition which left Newport, R. I., on June 29 in the 22-ton schooner yacht *Kitty A*, reached the port of Teneriffe on the morning of August 15 with all on board well. The yacht is owned and commanded by Henry R. Amory, a graduate of Harvard University. He has put his vessel at the disposal of the expedition, which is aimed to collect rare species of birds and to investigate the races of value to ethnological science.

Prof. Charles W. Furlong, the writer-explorer on ethnology, will make special efforts to gather information relating not only to the Guanches, the primitive people of the Canaries, but also in relation to the present inhabitants and to complete his ethnic studies among the North Africans along the same lines as his previous work among the inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego and other little-known sections of South America.

Dr. William G. Erving, the naturalist of the expedition, made daring trips through North Africa, including a canoe journey on the Nile from Khartum to Alexandria. He was also a member of the Bigham expedition in Peru.

MAKES INVESTIGATION OF MANILA ENVELOPES.

The cause of deterioration in samples of manila envelopes submitted for examination by the Panama Canal has been found by the Bureau of Standards, with the result that the manufacturer whose product was under investigation will be assisted by the bureau in obtaining a substitute for the material that was objectionable.

The samples received from the Panama Canal were faulty in the fact that the adhesive had absolutely disappeared, and had left the paper brittle and lifeless where it had been applied. The Bureau of Standards found that sulphuric acid had been used in the manufacture of the adhesive. The contractor who had furnished the envelopes to the Government was informed of this fact, and admitted that sulphuric acid had been used as a preservative, and with the intention of making the adhesive "take hold" on the paper.

The bureau suggested that a preservative could doubtless be found that would not be injurious either to the adhesive or to the paper, and the manufacturer has submitted samples of adhesive and paper for test. These are now being examined.

LANGUAGE TEST OF SEAMEN'S ACT EXPLAINED.

The requirement in the seamen's act establishing a language test to be applied to 75 per cent of the crew of any vessel of 100 tons gross and upward, except those navigating rivers exclusively and the smaller inland lakes, is the subject of a circular issued through the Bureau of Navigation by Secretary of Commerce William C. Redfield, who states the interpretation placed upon the language of the act by the Department of Commerce.

The requirement that the stated proportion of the crew shall be able to understand any order given by the officers of the vessel is construed to mean the necessary orders that may be given to members of the crew in each department in the course of the performance of their duties. No particular language is understood to be required.

The department holds that among the duties to which this applies shall be included lifeboat work or emergency work for such members of the crew as may be called upon to perform these classes of work.

AMERICAN PRODUCTS IN PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 1.]

Imports into Portugal from the United States in July held second place in value, aggregating \$737,000, as compared with \$1,807,632 from England. Other sources were as follows: Argentina, \$11,040; Brazil, \$31,076; France, \$92,189; Holland, \$230,486; Italy, \$13,000; Norway, \$269,432; Sweden, \$24,864.

It is certain that a considerable part of the goods credited to England originated in the United States. One of the leading commercial papers of Portugal comments on the excellent showing of the United States.

During the month 200 cargo ships entered the harbor of Lisbon, including 1 American steamer with oil and 2 American schooners laden with American coal. Since January 1, 11 ships flying the American flag have entered and cleared Lisbon.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Iron pipes, etc., No. 18499.—An American consular officer in Brazil submits a list of articles used by one of the departments in that country, which may be of interest to manufacturers in the United States. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 66048.)

Ice machine, No. 18500.—A letter to the Bureau states that a man in Porto Rico wishes to purchase a second-hand ice machine capable of making 5,000 pounds of ice per day of 12 hours.

Stoves, No. 18501.—A report from an American consular officer in France states that a firm desires to receive quotations from American manufacturers of petrol heating stoves of all classes, ordinary and blue flame, and kitchen petrol and gas stoves, ordinary and blue flame. Quotations must be c. i. f. port of delivery; cash against documents.

Copper tubes, drilling machines, etc., No. 18502.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that an American consular agent in Spain has requested the names of firms in the United States able to supply copper tubes, planing, drilling, and punching machines, bending rolls, woodworking machines, electric motors, and automatic tools.

Sewing thread, No. 18503.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a firm in his district states there is a large market for sewing thread in black and white; Nos. 8, 9, and 10 on wooden spools, containing 200 yards, and Nos. 30, 40, and 50 on wooden spools, containing 500 yards; one dozen spools to be packed in a card box and 25 gross per case. The spools must be marked at one end with firm's trade-mark, for which the necessary sketch would be supplied. Bank references given.

Vegetable dyes, No. 18504.—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm wishes to purchase large quantities of vegetable dyes and coloring matter extracted from woods. It is also interested in industrial chemical products used in spinning, weaving, and tanning.

Pencils, No. 18505.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm is in the market for indelible pencils. Correspondence should be in Spanish and the prices clearly stated in order to facilitate the purchase. Cash will be paid against documents in Spain.

Wheat flour, iron and steel, etc., No. 18506.—The Bureau is advised that a man in Brazil desires to represent American manufacturers of wheat flour, iron and steel bars, brass wire for fencing, zinc roofing, and codfish, etc. References given.

Machinery, No. 18507.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a firm in Russia desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of machinery necessary for the equipment of a pencil-manufacturing plant. The production required will be 2,000 gross pencils per day and 200 gross penholders.

General representation, No. 18508.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a man in France stating that he would like to represent American manufacturers or exporters. Correspondence should be in French. He does not specify any particular line.

Jute thread, No. 18509.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to import jute thread for the manufacture of bags for cereal. It is stated that 50 tons will be required per year in monthly shipments. The quantities are desired in equal parts of Nos. 7 and 8. Prices and samples are requested. References given.

Trade journals, No. 18510.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a man in Canada requesting names of the principal trade papers devoted to the fancy-goods trade, toys, and earthenware. The man wishes to secure an agency for these lines.

Buttons, No. 18511.—A report from a commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce states that a firm in Russia desires to correspond with American manufacturers of snap buttons, such as are used on women's garments and gloves.

General representation, No. 18512.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a man in the Netherlands stating that he wishes to represent American exporters. No particular line is mentioned.

Wire, No. 18513.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district is in the market for weaving wire similar to the sample which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 65385.)

Thread, No. 18514.—A machine company in New Zealand informs an American consular officer that it is in the market for thread to be used in the manufacture of boots and shoes. Catalogues, price lists, samples, etc., should be sent at once.

Flour, No. 18515.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a business man in his district desires to act as commission agent for American manufacturers and exporters of flour, the agency to become effective at the conclusion of the war. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

Celluloid, No. 18516.—A business man in Italy has requested an American consular officer to put him in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of celluloid in sheets—white, colored, and transparent. He desires to act as an agent. References are given. Correspondence should be in Italian or French.

Haberdashery, No. 18517.—An American consular officer in Greece writes that a business man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of general lines of haberdashery. Correspondence is preferred in French, but English may be used. Catalogues, samples, etc., are desired.

Tools, No. 18518.—A school official in Siberia has written an American consular officer requesting catalogues, price lists, and full information relative to tools for locksmiths, tinsmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, coopers, and bookbinders. The tools are to be used for educational purposes. In forwarding catalogues, etc., the conditions of sale and probable date of delivery should be indicated. Correspondence should be in Russian language.

Cabinet hardware, No. 18519.—An American consular officer in England transmits the names and addresses of a number of firms and business men in his district, stating that they desire to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of hinges, catches, and other fittings for the cabinet-case trade.

Pumps, No. 18520.—An American consular officer in Burma reports a possible opportunity for the sale of pumps. He transmits the names and addresses of three firms which desire to receive catalogues and full information relative to pumps.

Pharmaceutical products, No. 18521.—A business man in Italy informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent American producers and exporters of alkaloids derived from opium, and other pharmaceutical products. Payment will be made against shipping documents in foreign ports. Correspondence should be in Italian or French. Prices should be stated in lire of francs. References are given.

Corks, bottles, air-compressors, etc., No. 18522.—An American consular officer in South Africa transmits the name of a business man in his district who desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of goods to be used in the mineral and aerated water trade, such as steel boxes used in shipping, corks, bottles, air-compressors, gas-cylinders, and stills, etc. Catalogues and illustrated literature should be sent at once. Correspondence may be in English.

Cotton goods, No. 18523.—A firm in India writes an American consular officer that it desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton goods.

COOPERATIVE CLUBS FOR PURCHASE OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS.

[Consul William J. Grace, Aden, Arabia, June 25.]

At various times this consulate has received complaints from merchants arising from the alleged inattention given to their orders by American manufacturers. It is true that the orders have usually been small. However, the American manufacturer apparently fails to realize that these small orders create a demand for American products and thereby lead to larger ones and often to an enormous trade in a particular article.

The American cotton-piece-goods trade in the Near East started in a small way, by bartering cotton piece goods with the natives for the products of the countries bordering on the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, and one of the largest markets in the world for American cotton piece goods was thereby created.

In order to obviate some of the difficulties arising from small and miscellaneous orders, this consulate suggests the organization by American manufacturers, with the assistance of American consuls, of cooperative-purchasing clubs throughout the East, South America, and Europe (if the plan be feasible in Europe).

Organization Would Stimulate Interest and Create Mutual Advantages.

A special discount could be given these clubs on purchases made through the organization. A coupon issued by the secretary of the club, showing the merchant to be a member, would bring this discount. Catalogues and advertising matter could be sent to these clubs and in this case the merchants would undoubtedly consult them, although they might not take the trouble to read similar catalogues at an American consulate. Other attractive features could be added as the plans for the clubs develop. Such a club, belonging to the merchants, would interest them more than any outside agency.

As to purchases made through clubs, the questions of credit and payment could easily be worked out in a way satisfactory to the buyer and the seller, once the plan proposed be decided upon. The clubs would also furnish a forum where representatives of American manufacturers could set forth the merits and benefits of American products.

If this proposition interests American manufacturers, the writer will be pleased to assist in every way in working out a practicable plan for the organization of such clubs.

STONE INCOME NEARLY EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS.

The value of the stone produced in the United States during 1914 totaled \$77,412,292. The Geological Survey statistics give \$20,028,919 as the value of granite; "trap rock," \$7,865,998; marble, \$8,121,412; common limestone, \$33,894,155; sandstone, \$7,501,808.

Exports of stone fluctuate, but have risen considerably, the value being \$209,587 in 1900 and \$1,363,242 in 1914, of which \$982,102 went to Canada, the largest market. The next largest purchasers are Cuba, Russia, Australia, Great Britain, Panama, Germany, and Mexico.

Imports of stone show little variation from \$1,500,000 annually. The leading item is marble from Italy—\$1,127,139 worth in 1914, or a reduction of 17 per cent from 1913, due to the war and labor troubles in the Carrara quarries.

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THE COFFEE TRADE AT AMSTERDAM.

[Consul Frank W. Mahlin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 2.]

According to information from importers of coffee in Amsterdam, the stock in this city on August 31 was 315,314 bags. The stock at the corresponding date of 1914 was 490,186; of 1913, 184,180; of 1912, 217,690. These figures represent approximately three-fourths of the entire stock of coffee in the Netherlands, excluding, of course, supplies with retailers and consumers.

About 40 per cent of the present stock is Brazilian coffee, 15 per cent Java, and the rest from various parts of the world. The price of good Java is 20 American cents and of superior Brazil 18 cents, an increase of $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents for Java and of 4 cents for Brazil as compared with the corresponding period of 1914.

The arrivals of coffee at Amsterdam in August this year amounted to 154,941 bags, compared with 20,263, 30,599, and 34,173 bags in August of 1914, 1913, and 1912, respectively. During the first eight months of this year the total arrivals at Amsterdam amounted to 2,210,059 bags, against 618,965, 314,313, and 375,985 in the corresponding periods of 1914, 1913, and 1912, respectively. The figures for the deliveries are much the same as those for the arrivals.

Census of Manufactures in Fargo, N. Dak.

The 1915 census of manufactures for the city of Fargo, N. Dak., on which a preliminary statement has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census, shows that the capital invested increased 43 per cent, from \$2,077,000 to \$2,970,000, in the period from 1909 to 1914. The number of establishments increased from 61 to 76, and the average capital per establishment from \$34,000 to \$39,000. Increases in other items were: Primary horsepower, 61.5 per cent; wages, 37.5; wage earners, 35.1; materials, 23.5; value of products, 21.4; value added by manufacture, 18.6; and salaries, 10.4 per cent.

TESTS MADE FOR VARIATIONS IN CLOTH TAPES.

Tests to determine just what degree of accuracy may be expected in the use of cloth tapes as compared with steel tapes were recently made by the Bureau of Standards. The conclusion is reached that unless the cloth tape is frequently compared with a steel tape while in use it should not be relied upon to possess an accuracy better than 1 part in 500 or 1,000.

The investigation was conducted in connection with a test of 90 cloth tapes for the Department of Commerce with the object of learning some of the variations likely to be encountered with such tapes. They were found to be accurately graduated for a 100-foot interval when under a 2-pound tension within 0.5 inch. An increase of 1 pound in tension lengthened the tape 0.3 inch, as a rule, in 100-foot intervals. A 100-foot tape under 5-pound tension for five minutes increased the length of the tape at that tension by about 0.3 inch.

Upon stretching a tape under an 8-pound tension for 10 minutes and then reducing the tension to 2 pounds (the tension of the first measurements), a 100-foot interval was found to have increased 0.9 inch over its original length at 2 pounds. While part of this increase was temporary, with each stretching of the tape at a tension higher than the usual 2 or 5 pounds the tape becomes gradually longer.

The Bureau of Standards learns from these experiments that even with extreme care in the use of such tapes, as it is difficult without the use of a spring balance to judge of the tension being applied to a tape, it is inadvisable to expect an accuracy greater than one part in 2,500, while for ordinary use the variation is as given above.

GOVERNMENT AIDS IN TESTS OF INGOTS.

Representatives of the United States Bureau of Standards have been assisting in the securing of data regarding 100 tons of Hadfield ingots acquired by an Eastern railroad, which were rolled at a near-by steelworks, and also a companion lot of Maryland ingots. The bureau, in cooperation with these concerns, is making a study of the properties of the rails rolled, and an examination of representative ingots and of blooms. Valuable information as to the relative properties of the two types of ingot is expected.

The Bureau of Standards has also continued its test ingot research, to determine to what extent the presence of blowholes should cause rejection of samples.

The bureau, in its monthly report, states that the use of the plant of a Maryland steel company for experimental purposes is of great value to the bureau, as it permits the taking of observations under actual manufacturing conditions and on a scale that would otherwise be impossible. Among the experiments conducted at the plant were those to determine whether it is possible to control the operation of the Bessemer, open-hearth, and other furnaces by aid of the pyrometer.

Chinese chambers of commerce exist in New York, San Francisco, and Manila.

FRICTION-TOP CANS FOR AMERICAN CANDIES.

[Commercial Attaché Julian H. Arnold, Peking, China., Aug. 13.]

A report from our consul general at Yokohama, Japan, directs the attention of manufacturers of candies, who are desirous of securing markets abroad for their products, to the necessity of having these candies packed in tin boxes after the individual pieces have been wrapped in tin foil. This office wishes to add that the friction-top can is used extensively for this purpose, and lends itself well to the handling necessitated when being used by those who purchase the candies for their own consumption, for the friction top allows a can to be opened and closed in a manner so as to preserve the contents from the disastrous results of the warm summer in the Orient. It has been suggested by this office in previous communications that the American producers of dried fruits use the friction-topped tin container for high-class goods, especially such fruits as California dried prunes, which find an increasingly large sale in the Oriental markets. Cans may also be used advantageously for packing American crackers and biscuits, as these are very susceptible to the humidity of the climate in the Far East. It would seem that American candies, especially on account of their superior quality, would find a market throughout the east if they were shipped in small tin boxes or cans with a layer of paper shavings at the top and bottom. As pointed out by our consul general at Yokohama, small-sized containers should be used in order to prevent the candy from being crushed in transportation by the weight of the layers placed one above the other.

CANADIAN BOND SALES SINCE THE WAR.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Sept. 22.]

According to a published statement, the Dominion Securities Corporation, Toronto, has compiled and forwarded to Ottawa a report of Canadian securities sold between August 1, 1914, and August 15, 1915. The total given is \$232,198,282. Since the date covered in this statement the city of Ottawa has sold about \$3,000,000 additional, and it is understood that the city of Montreal is preparing to do somewhat extensive borrowing in the United States.

Canadian securities sold.

Nature of securities.	Sold in United States.	Sold in Great Britain.	Sold in Canada.
Government issues	\$73,325,000	\$24,333,333	\$7,450,000
Municipal issues	31,306,079		30,019,905
Railway issues	28,190,000	20,610,332	
Public service corporations	13,920,000	15,000	125,000
Industrial and miscellaneous issues			750,000
Unspecified issues		1,433,333	630,300
Total	146,831,079	46,361,998	38,975,235

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

Mr. Albert G. Ebert, American vice consul at Montevideo, Uruguay, is in the United States on leave of absence and may be addressed in care of the Consular Bureau, Department of State, by those who desire to consult him in regard to the extension of trade between the United States and Uruguay.

PALM AND PALM-KERNEL OIL INDUSTRY.

[Consul William J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Aug. 9.]

The value, extent, and importance of the palm and palm-kernel oil industry of West Africa is but faintly realized by persons other than those directly interested in the trade. The amount of oil annually exported from British West Africa alone is now probably about 110,000 tons, and of kernels, 220,000 tons.

The palm tree from which the palm fruit is obtained is indigenous, and grows in enormous quantities on the West Coast, the area extending from 300 to 400 miles back into the interior. It is most prolific from the Kongo to French Guinea, the territory included embracing the Belgian and French Kongo, the Cameroons, Southern Nigeria, Dahomey, Togoland, the Gold Coast, the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and a part of French and Portuguese Guinea. The trees are about 30 feet or more in height. They begin to bear in the third or fourth year, being then only 12 to 15 feet high. Each tree bears, after it is 6 or 8 years old, as many as seven or eight cones of fruit, and in the fully matured trees the yield is often larger.

Plucking the Cones—Character of the Fruit—Prices.

As the cones are usually very high on the tree, it is necessary to exercise some care in plucking them. In this the natives have become expert, climbing with ease the tall, straight trunks of the trees and cutting down the cones with sharp knives or cutlasses. When the fruit is detached from the cones it consists of a soft, fibrous outer covering or pericarp, which contains the thick, orange-red palm oil, and the inner hard part or palm nut, which, when the hard covering or shell is cracked and removed, yields the palm kernel, a hard, white, nutty body still covered with a thin brown or blackish coat. The kernel contains about 50 per cent of palm-kernel oil, which differs from the palm oil in quality and uses, and is more valuable.

The average price in Liverpool for kernels during the months preceding the war was about \$100 per ton; the average during the six months after the war was about \$86 per ton; while the price on March 2, 1915, was \$95 per ton, and on June 1, 1915, \$75 per ton. The average price paid for palm oil in Liverpool just before the war was \$145 to \$150. Lagos palm oil was \$176 to \$180 per ton on March 12, 1915, and on June 1, 1915, \$140 per ton. Lagos palm kernels were \$93 to \$96 per ton on March 12, 1915, and on June 1, 1915, \$75 per ton.

The pericarp usually holds about 60 per cent of its weight in oil, and as this pericarp is approximately 40 per cent of the whole fruit, the amount of palm oil in the fruit is somewhere in the neighborhood of 24 per cent.

Extraction by Machinery—Opportunity for Invention.

There is practically no cultivation of the trees beyond allowing them to grow and gathering the cones of nuts so that others may take their places. All the work connected with hulling the nuts and extracting the oil from pericarp and kernels is crudely done. The fruit is usually first boiled and then placed in a mortar and pounded until practically all the fiber is off the nut, when the oil, together with the fiber, is again boiled and the oil collected upon the top of the water. Some pound the fruit in the mortar, then boil it, and

collect the oil on the top of the water. This latter is called by the natives soap palm oil, being shipped to Europe principally for manufacturing soap.

After practically all the fiber has been removed by being pounded in the mortar, the nuts are spread out in the sun to dry, that they may be more easily cracked for the kernels. The natives sit about on the ground with a stone between their legs, breaking away the outer shell with another stone or iron hammer—200 natives doing the work in one day that one machine might do. Some palm-kernel oil is also made by the natives roasting the kernels and then boiling them. It would appear that some one of inventive mind might contrive a machine to hull or remove the pericarp of the nuts, and then after they are dried crack the shells and remove them from the kernels.

The attention of engineers (chiefly, perhaps, in Germany) has been turned for some years to the subject of extracting palm oil and palm-kernel oil by machinery in West Africa, with the result that there are now on the market several machines which, it is claimed, are capable of dealing with very large quantities of the fruit. It is considered probable that the next few years will see a large number of them set to work and many factories established in West Africa, not only for extracting the palm oil but for shelling the nuts and obtaining the kernel oil, this latter having up to the present been done almost exclusively in Europe. Many concessions have already been granted by the governments of the British colonies giving exclusive rights in certain prescribed territories for the manufacture of palm oil and palm-kernel oil by machinery; but it appears that these have met with little practical success, except perhaps in the manufacture of palm oil.

The machine in demand is one that will first remove the fibrous pericarp from the fruit, then crack and remove the shell covering the kernel. After this the extraction of the oil from the fiber and that from the kernel by means of compresses would be an easy matter. For many years hand nut-cracking machines have been in use in Nigeria and elsewhere, but these have not proved a success and have been for operation on a small scale. It is with much larger, power-driven machines, capable of outputs of 100 tons or more of oil per week, that future developments may be expected. Yet small machines capable of removing the pericarps and successfully cracking and removing the shells of the kernels would be in great demand.

The Question of Transport—Future of the Industry.

The only bars to the widespread development of the palm-oil industry in West Africa at present are the difficulty just mentioned and the problem of transport from some of the best palm districts. The transport problem will not be overcome until much of the country is opened up. Steady progress toward this goal was, however, being made up to the beginning of the war. But there are very large palm-bearing areas not far from the coast and on the verge of wide navigable rivers where the transporting of the oil for shipment involves no great difficulty or expense, and it is in these districts that the first steps will be taken on a large scale.

When it is remembered that palm oil will bring normally about \$150 and kernels \$100 per ton in Europe, and that on a moderately

large scale the oil could be delivered in Liverpool far under \$100 per ton and the kernels far less than \$75 per ton, including absolutely all charges, with guaranteed cost of production, it is not difficult to understand that future developments may be rapid and may have an important bearing on the general prospects of West African trade.

The palm and palm-kernel oil industry of West Africa bids fair to rival the cottonseed-oil industry of America. It is only waiting for improved methods in cultivation and preparation for the market. The greater part of the oil and nuts has been shipped to England and Germany, to be used in the manufacture of soaps, candles, lubricating oils, oleomargarines, etc. Much of the oil, however, is used in cooking and for salads.

Value of Exports.

The following table shows the value of West African exports of kernels and oil for the last three years:

Colonies.	1912		1913		1914	
	Palm kernels.	Palm oil.	Palm kernels.	Palm oil.	Palm kernels.	Palm oil.
British West Africa:						
Gambia.....	\$31, 710	.....	\$43, 921	.....	\$38, 028	.....
Sierra Leone.....	3, 859, 604	\$327, 549	4, 481, 304	\$275, 703	2, 721, 617	\$187, 423
Gold Coast.....	999, 101	549, 186	774, 158	319, 397	431, 473	183, 185
Nigeria.....	13, 609, 405	8, 051, 249	15, 129, 265	9, 021, 578	12, 362, 690	7, 646, 282
Total.....	18, 499, 820	8, 927, 984	20, 428, 648	9, 616, 678	15, 553, 808	8, 016, 890
French West Africa.....	3, 261, 440	1, 963, 579	2, 917, 817	1, 352, 429	(a)	(a)
German West Africa:						
Togoland.....	851, 718	401, 793	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Cameroons.....	1, 048, 664	386, 128	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Total.....	1, 900, 382	787, 921	.....	.....	.....	.....

a Statistics not available.

In addition to the above, British West Africa exported \$153,170 worth of palm-kernel cake in 1913 and \$45,945 in 1914, and \$629,740 of palm-kernel oil in 1913 and \$305,858 in 1914.

DISPLAY OF RUSSIAN PEASANTS' HANDWORK.

[Commercial Agent E. C. Porter, New York, Sept. 14.]

The Russian Department of Agriculture has sent Mr. Theo. Krysh-tofovich as a special commissioner to the United States, with the intention of making known to American merchants the products of Russian peasants' handwork. The commissioner has brought with him a large display of laces, embroideries, linen cloth, tablecloths, doilies, fancy boxes, metal work, etc. Everything is made by hand and is artistically done. These goods illustrate the kind of handwork which Russian peasants are doing and for which there might be a market in America.

[Russian peasant industries, the products of which are known as "kustarny" goods, were described in detail in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Feb. 4, 1913; see also the issue for Sept. 3, 1912.]

CANADIAN MARKET FOR SHOE BLACKING.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul at Ottawa, Aug. 10.]

Shoe blacking, under the Canadian customs classification, is included with shoemakers' ink and shoe, harness, and leather dressing. The imports from the United States, under this classification, greatly exceed those from all other countries combined, but the following statement for the last three fiscal years shows a steady decline in imports from the United States, with a corresponding increase from Great Britain, imports from other countries being negligible:

Imported from—	1913	1914	1915
Great Britain.....	\$9,507	\$30,943	\$35,987
United States.....	116,725	101,838	92,013
All other countries.....	17	208	223
Total.....	126,249	133,047	128,223

There are no available statistics as to the Canadian production of these articles.

It is not practicable, on account of the classification, to determine the actual or comparative amount of shoe blacking imported from the United States. Window displays in Ottawa and inquiry at a number of shoe stores show a few American brands in stock, but English and Canadian blackings predominate. Some of the very popular American brands appear to be entirely absent from this market. One well-known American polish is found in nearly all stores, but is the output of a Canadian branch factory. Retail prices are about the same as in the United States.

The regular import duty on shoe blacking is $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent plus $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent war duty, a total of 35 per cent ad valorem. Great Britain is allowed a preferential duty of 15 per cent plus 5 per cent war duty, a total of 20 per cent ad valorem.

While this market appears well supplied, and while the duty might appear high to some manufacturers, it would seem that American brands of shoe blacking, particularly those with patent openers that make them attractive to the large number of persons who shine their own shoes, should find a ready sale in this part of Canada, even though offered at a higher price than is asked for less convenient brands.

SMALL IMPORT STOCKS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 18.]

Importers' warehouses in New Zealand contain smaller stocks at this time than for many years, with a good demand from the general public. The imports for the first five months of 1915 were, in value, \$38,713,280 against \$46,831,419 for the like period in 1914; and there is nothing promising as yet from the European supplies, which leaves a great opening for American goods until some time after the war closes at least.

This decline of imports is not for lack of a demand, but because of the inability to secure the stock from the old sources, and a delay in forming new connections, with the hope that the supply might come later from the old source. This should be taken advantage of by American exporters by going after this business in earnest.

SUGAR PROSPECTS IN THE FAR EAST.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 12.]

At the present time sugar prospects in the Far East are much brighter than usual. The Philippines promise a large crop, that of Negros and Panay probably reaching 4,000,000 piculs, or about 266,666 short tons, and exceeding all previous records. The Board having charge of the erection of sugar centrals in the Islands under the new plan of assisting such projects by loans from Government funds (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 14, June 2 and 28, July 20, and September 18, 1915) has decided to promote the erection of at least one new mill to care for the 1916-17 crop.

Prices of sugar all over the Far East have held up well, the demand in America supplementing the reviving demand in China and India. The Hongkong refineries have been crippled in their operation both by the restricted market in China and other consuming centers and by the difficulty of securing raw sugar from Java and other producing countries. This has led to an increase in the import of sugar from the Philippines and from Chinese ports. The imports into the Colony for the first half of the current year are placed by commercial interests at 189,133 short tons, as compared with 270,333 short tons during the same period of 1914. The imports in detail (in the same unit) have been as follows:

	1914			1915		
	White.	Raw.	Total.	White.	Raw.	Total.
Java	100,000	112,333	212,333	37,333	86,667	124,000
China (Hoihow)		5,667	5,667		9,800	9,800
Philippines		51,333	51,333		55,333	55,333
Total	100,000	170,333	270,333	37,333	151,800	189,133

Prices of Java white sugar have ranged from \$12 to \$15, local currency (\$4.72 to \$5.89 United States currency), per picul of 133½ pounds, as compared with \$7 to \$8 (\$3.20 to \$3.66) during the first half of last year. For raw sugars the prices have ranged from \$9 to \$10, local currency (\$3.54 to \$3.93), per picul, as compared with \$5.40 to \$6.40 (\$2.47 to \$2.93) last year. Hoihow sugar has ranged in price around \$7.50, local currency (\$2.95), per picul, as compared with \$4.80 (\$2.20) last year, and Philippine sugars have run from \$8.10 to \$8.20 (\$3.18 to \$3.22) as compared with \$5.20 to \$6 (\$2.38 to \$2.75). Of the sugar from the Philippines this year about 32,000 tons came from the Iloilo field and the rest from Luzon.

Smaller Output of South African Mines.

According to figures supplied by Vice Consul John W. Dye, of Cape Town, the total value of the products of the South African mines for the year 1914 amounted to \$220,773,639, or \$36,781,007 less than in 1913. Of this decrease, \$28,722,083 is accounted for by the closing of the diamond mines (described in Supplements Nos. 66a, 66b, and 66c to **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 18, June 25, and Aug. 5, 1915).

BLIGHT-PROOF COFFEE FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

[From the Manila Daily Bulletin.]

When, 25 years ago, the coffee blight which was then sweeping over the entire East visited the Philippines it destroyed, so far as production for export was concerned, a formerly flourishing industry; and since that time the cultivation of coffee in the islands has been confined to one or two isolated mountainous districts where the altitude was sufficient to exclude the blight. In these localities almost every house has had its coffee patch, and on them, despite careless methods of cultivation, an excellent quality has been grown, as travelers who have passed that way can testify. The quantity of this product has been inconsiderable, however, from a commercial point of view, and coffee has never again taken a place of any importance in the list of Philippine exports.

There has never seemed, however, any conclusive reason why a blight-proof stock should not be successfully introduced, as had been done in Java and Ceylon, with the result of rehabilitating the coffee industry of those countries to a great extent, though they had originally been almost as hard hit as the Philippines. Experiments with this end in view have been somewhat numerous, and not long ago it was announced that measures would be taken to import a supply of the *robusta* variety of coffee plants for distribution. For some time, however, it proved impossible to secure satisfactory stock in sufficient quantities; and it has only lately been announced that, as a result of negotiations with the Dutch Indian Government, a supply has at last been assured from Java. The chief of the plant-breeding station at Buitenzorg now writes that he will send 200 pounds of seed of selected varieties, and it may be that this will mark a definite beginning of the work of putting an industry, which at one time made a good many fortunes in the Philippines, on its feet again.

JAPANESE SUBSIDY FOR DYE INDUSTRY.

As a result of the continued scarcity of dyes and certain other chemicals, both houses of the Japanese Diet have passed a bill for the granting of subsidies to companies engaged in the manufacture of dyes (including aniline salt, aniline dyes, alizarine dyes, and synthetic indigo) and chemicals in Japan, provided that more than half the capital of any such company is subscribed by Japanese subjects, according to a statement published in the British Board of Trade Journal. The amount of subsidy to be granted will be sufficient to enable the companies to pay a dividend of 8 per cent on the paid-up capital. The subsidies will be for a period of 10 years from the date of the promulgation of the law.

Medicines or perfumery specified by imperial ordinance, manufactured from coal-tar by-products, will be regarded as manufactured dyes and chemicals. The manufacture of the materials for gunpowder will also be regarded as the manufacture of dyes and chemicals.

As has been the case with other countries, Japan has suffered severely from the shortage of dyes and chemicals since the outbreak of the war. In normal times the imports of dyes were valued at about \$3,500,000 a year, nearly all of which came from Germany.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE WORLD.

Investigations of prices and the computation of index numbers for the purpose of measuring changes in the level of prices of commodities have been very numerous both in this and foreign countries, especially since the beginning of the world-wide rise in prices in 1896-97. At the present time there are in the United States not less than five series currently maintained—four of them by financial papers. In England there are three important series; in France, two; and Germany, three; while the Governments of Italy, Denmark, Netherlands, Russia, Canada, Australia, and Japan publish official index numbers, and private investigators have made series for Belgium, Norway, Austria, Spain, New Zealand, and India. Even this imposing list may be incomplete and is almost certain to require additions within a short time.

Most of the series of index numbers of wholesale prices above referred to have been established but recently. The oldest, that of the *London Economist*, has been published since 1869; Sauerbeck's English series dates from 1886; Conrad's German series from 1887; and Bradstreet's American series from 1897. Of the remaining index numbers regularly published at the present time all date from years since 1899, and the majority from years since 1909. Descriptions of these index numbers and summaries of the stories which they tell of the course of wholesale prices in the various countries of the world are given in Bulletin 173, just issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The aim of this bulletin is to make the index numbers of wholesale prices currently published in the United States and foreign countries more accessible, more intelligible, and more useful. To this end the leading series of index numbers compiled by official bureaus, financial journals, and private investigators both at home and abroad are described in detail. The history of each series, the source from which quotations are taken, the number and description of the commodities including the methods of averaging, the statistical results obtained, etc., are set forth as far as the facts could be learned so that anyone wishing to use the figures in question would know how they are derived and what they mean.

This systematic description of the series now being published is preceded by a critical analysis by Prof. Wesley C. Mitchell of the various methods employed to measure changes in the level of prices, an analysis which shows the advantages and the defects of these methods, the purposes for which the different index numbers may properly be employed, the reasons for the discrepancies which usually appear when two or more series for the same time and country are computed side by side, the safeguards which are necessary in making comparisons between different series, and the confidence which index numbers merit as measured by price fluctuations.

In all the bulletin describes in detail 32 different series of index numbers, covering all the leading countries of the world where studies of wholesale prices have been made. In addition an annotated bibliography describes briefly a large number of less important studies of wholesale prices in which index numbers have been computed.

A few years ago China was without a native press. To-day several hundred newspapers are published.

NEED OF STEAM TRAWLERS AT LA ROCHELLE.

[Consul Kenneth Stuart Patton, La Rochelle, France, Sept. 2.]

The fishing industry, one of the most important of La Rochelle, has been greatly affected by the war. In normal times 28 steam trawlers supply the local and surrounding markets with fish. The French Government has already requisitioned 25 of these trawlers and may ultimately take the remaining three. The result is that the local market has not sufficient fish to supply the demand, and the price has more than doubled. The trawlers average about 140 feet in length, 200 tons gross and 100 tons net. They make a maximum speed of 10 knots and burn an average of 7 tons of coal for each 24 hours run. Bunker coal is now selling at 55 francs (\$10.62) per ton.

The fish usually taken by the trawlers and their present prices per kilo (2.20 pounds) are as follows: Hake, 2 francs (\$0.386); bream, 2 francs; whiting pollock, 0.75 franc, (\$0.146); skate, 1.25 francs (\$0.24); trap fish, 2 francs; red gurnet, 1.50 francs (\$0.29); red mullet, 4 francs (\$0.77).

The trawlers fish off of Ouessant, the Grand Sol, and Porcupine Bank. The average catch per boat and trip is about 15 tons. As two or three trips are made each month, the monthly catch averages 40 tons and will sell for about 50,000 francs (\$9,650).

In normal times the total monthly operating expenses, including interest on the capital, insurance, bait, ice, coal, crew, etc., for a trawler of 200 tons gross will not exceed 15,000 francs (\$2,895). At present 17,000 to 18,000 francs (\$3,281 to \$3,474) should easily cover all these expenses. A foreign trawler should add to these expenses the duty of about 23 centimes (4.44 cents) per kilo (2.20 pounds) of fish to cover harbor dues. Fish, the product of French fisheries, are exempt from import duty. The capital in a trawler of 200 tons gross is estimated at about \$20,000.

The crew as a rule consists of captain, mate, chief engineer, second engineer, and 10 men. They are paid fixed salaries and a percentage of the catch, as follows: Captain, 150 francs (\$28.95) and 3 per cent; mate, 150 francs and one-half of 1 per cent; chief engineer, 200 francs (\$38.60) and 2 per cent; second engineer, 150 francs and one-half of 1 per cent; firemen, 140 francs (\$27.02) and three-tenths of 1 per cent; crew, 120 francs (\$23.16) and three-tenths of 1 per cent.

One or more American trawlers would be welcomed here, inasmuch as they would not be liable to requisition by the French Government, and they should be able to make large profits.

Parties interested in this subject should address Mr. A. F. Lloyd (British proconsul), 16 Cours des Dames, La Rochelle, or the Syndicat des Chalutiers, La Rochelle, France.

NEWSPAPER FOR THE MOROS.

The Habar Sing Tau Sug is a new Moro newspaper, published by the Sulu Press, of the Moro Mission at Zamboanga, P. I. The publication is printed in Arabic and has as its object the uplift of the Moro people, among whom it is widely circulated.

CITRUS-FRUIT CROPS IN MALAGA DISTRICT.

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Spain, Aug. 26.]

Interviews with the largest consignees of oranges and lemons in Malaga, as well as the steamship companies, indicate that the production of these fruits in Malaga Province in 1914-15 was: Oranges, 120,000 boxes, averaging 154 pounds, making a total of 8,400 metric tons; lemons, 80,000 boxes, averaging 101 pounds, making a total of 3,680 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.62 pounds).

The total production in the Malaga consular district in 1914-15 may be given as follows:

Provinces.	Number of trees.	Boxes (oranges, 154 pounds; lemons, 101 pounds).	Weight in metric tons.
ORANGES.			
Almeria	304,314	152,157	10,652
Granada	32,025	16,012	1,121
Malaga	223,000	111,500	7,805
Total	559,339	279,669	19,578
LEMONS.			
Almeria	11,600	5,800	267
Granada	5,190	2,595	119
Malaga	207,100	103,550	4,763
Total	223,890	111,945	5,149

SILK PRODUCTION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

[From the Manila Daily Bulletin.]

There has been a good deal of activity from time to time in the way of attempts to put the production of silk in the Philippines on a commercial basis. Hitherto these have mainly concerned themselves with the Christianized people, and especially with the Provinces around Manila; but interest has now been aroused in the possibility of accomplishing something along this line for the economic betterment of the Mountain Province of northern Luzon, which is very densely populated when the primitive character of its people and its utter lack of diversified industry are taken into consideration.

An important effort of this character is being made by the Catholic Mission at Bontoc, the capital of the Province, with the encouragement of the Government. In view of the impracticability of securing locally a competent man to take charge of this work, negotiations have been entered into with the Japanese high school of agriculture, with a view to obtaining the service of an expert. If this can be done, the chances for the new industry should be much improved.

The possibility of accomplishing something definite seems increased, moreover, by the discovery that a variety of silkworm which feeds on the leaves of the castor oil plant—which grows like a weed throughout the country—has been found to be easily acclimatized in the islands, and effort are also to be made to acquire a supply of this stock.

AMERICAN MOTOR CARS IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Sept. 6.]

A representative of an automobile manufacturing company in the United States recently visited Scotland, partly on business, but chiefly to shoot grouse. While staying at a shooting lodge in a northern county he sent to an American friend in this city an account of his exploits on the moors, and added these observations on the automobile trade:

In my tour of Scotland I find evidences everywhere of the satisfaction our car and—to be entirely candid—other American motor cars are giving to all users. Since the beginning of the war low-priced American cars have been in great demand, and one sees them on almost every road in the lowlands and highlands and islands. They seem to be especially in favor here in the north, where not many people think they can afford to pay more than \$1,000 for a car. Moreover, the doctors, judges, and lawyers have long distances to travel and horses are scarce and “traps” an abomination, and a reliable motor car of low initial cost is a boon.

Higher-priced American cars are also securing an important position in the market, and some of these owe their introduction largely to the fact that all American automobiles have been well advertised by the pronounced success of the cheaper cars among every class of buyers, the logic of the case being that a country that turns out durable and dependable little cars must also produce durable and dependable big cars. So you see that we representatives of different types of American machines are helping one another. Of course, the war has tied up several British makers, whose works are now shell factories; but this does not by any means fully account for the advance of American cars in the British markets, as we were going ahead rapidly before the war started. There's nothing like getting a reputation for giving customers the value of their money, and we have that reputation and expect to keep it. So long as we continue to build cars that meet the requirements of the American market we can sell them in Great Britain.

WHAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DOES IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 17.]

Since the organization of the Department of Labor in New Zealand in 1908 practical assistance has been afforded to 109,524 workers, with 141,346 dependents. The number assisted during 1914 exceeded those for 1913 by 1,970, and the system is very beneficial and popular.

Car fare is often advanced in order to help a person to get where work can be had. During 1914 the Government advanced \$56,767.72 for that purpose, of which \$48,416.81 was refunded. Also small sums are advanced for board, medical bills, etc., to tide over worthy cases.

The department also builds homes for working people when their net earnings do not exceed \$851.63 per annum, which has done much to put the laborer in an independent position and able to take care of himself.

This department also publishes a monthly journal that contains a large amount of useful information for the worker, covering the cost of living in different localities, where work is most plentiful along certain lines, etc.

The laboring man's condition in New Zealand is probably in advance of that enjoyed in any other part of the world. He is protected on all sides, and if he is any good, can make a fair living, and even own a home in a few years.

BEEF SUPPLY OF THE PHILIPPINES.

[From the Manila Daily Bulletin.]

One of the early economic effects of the European war was to interfere in a serious manner with the beef supply of the Philippines. At present, as a result of stock diseases, which have never been wholly eradicated, though greatly reduced in amount, there are practically no beef cattle kept in the Islands, and the whole supply for consumption is imported. As regards the foreign population this importation consists mainly of cold-storage beef from Australia, and the trade was of course in prospect of being cut off entirely by the embargo placed on meat exportation by the Commonwealth Government. It is understood, however, that this difficulty has been so adjusted as to insure an ample supply, though advices do not state precisely in what manner.

The importation of cold-storage beef has no effect on the supply for the native population, as few Filipinos will eat anything but freshly killed meat. Formerly a great part of the live-cattle supply for Manila had been obtained from Indo-China, but five or six years ago this was excluded by the Philippine authorities, as a step in the campaign against rinderpest, and since that time the principal cattle importer has brought in his stock mainly from Western Australia. This source was, however, also cut off by the war, and when an attempt was made to turn again to Indo-China as a market it was frustrated by a period of exceedingly stormy weather, which made the shipment of live stock practically impossible, and indeed caused the loss of all but three out of 300 head in two cargoes which were actually started.

Under these conditions the Philippine authorities turned to the West River Valley in South China, for which Canton and Hongkong are the markets. An embargo had long been in effect at Manila on importations of cattle from this region also on account of disease, but in view of the imminent danger of shortage, there being at one time only five days' supply in the Manila markets, arrangements have been made whereby, with careful selection of stock, this embargo has been lifted without any serious peril of the introduction of disease. It was expected that these measures would have the desired effect of bringing down beef prices in Manila, which had risen by more than a third in two or three days.

ANOTHER GREAT DOCK IN JAPAN.

[Extract from Japan Times of Aug. 19, by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama.]

Though Yokosuka Naval Port has several docks, it has not a dock large enough to accommodate a superdreadnaught. Therefore, every time repairs have to be done to the *Kongo* and the *Hiei*, these vessels have to be brought to Kure or to Saseho.

This inconvenience will be, however, soon removed. On July 13, 1911, the construction of a dock 800 feet in length, 120 feet in breadth, and over 40 feet in depth was commenced at the port, at an estimated cost of about a million yen (\$498,000). Its completion was scheduled for next year, but the work will be accelerated and completed by the end of next October at the latest, with a view to employing it for the new superdreadnaught *Yamashiro*, which will be launched by November next.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the file number given.

Licorice root, alfalfa, etc., No. 18524.—A business man in Siberia informs an American consular officer that he desires to receive the names and addresses of American firms which would be interested in importing from Turkistan licorice root, alfalfa, sheep casings, and astrakhan, as well as "lapis lazuli" from Central Siberia. Correspondence may be in English, but German or French is preferred.

Haberdashery and leather, No. 18525.—An American consular officer in Persia writes that a merchant in his district desires to correspond with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton goods, haberdashery, and leather. It is stated that he is a wholesale dealer. Catalogues, price lists, samples, and full information should be sent. Correspondence may be in English.

Surgical instruments, etc., No. 18526.—A business man in Italy writes an American consular officer that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of instruments of precision for medicine and surgery. Payment will be made against shipping documents in foreign countries. Correspondence should be in Italian or French. Prices, etc., should be stated in lire or francs. References are given.

Haberdashery and millinery, No. 18527.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of hats, bonnets, collars, hosiery, lace, embroidery, dress fabrics, etc., for women; also general lines of haberdashery, including walking sticks and boots and shoes.

Machinery, No. 18528.—A representative of an oil company in Brazil informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of obtaining catalogues, price lists, and full information relative to a barrel-tiering apparatus. This device is desired to facilitate the handling of oil barrels. Correspondence may be in English.

Glue, No. 18529.—An American consular officer in Burma transmits the name and address of a firm in his district which desires to receive full information relative to glue. The firm desires to act as an agent. Prices should be made c. i. f. destination.

Selling agency, No. 18530.—A firm in China informs an American consular officer that it wishes to form connections in San Francisco with a reliable firm which will act as its selling agent for such products of China as are marketable in the United States. Some of the principal commodities to be exported are egg albumen, sesamum seed, wood and other oils, beans, antimony ore and regulus, hides, skins, bristles, etc.

Paper, glass, toys, etc., No. 18531.—An American consular officer in India writes that he is in receipt of a letter from a firm of commission agents in his district which is interested in hardware, paper, glass, beads, toys, fancy goods, etc.

Underwear, No. 18532.—A manufacturer's agent in England informs an American consular officer that he wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of underwear for women. References are given.

Tallow and greases, No. 18533.—A firm in Italy informs an American consular officer that it wishes to act as agent for American producers of tallow and greases. Samples and price lists c. i. f. Italy should be submitted. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

Machinery, No. 18534.—An American consular officer in Australia reports that a merchant in his district desires to be placed in immediate communication with manufacturers and exporters of machinery for making margarine as a substitute for butter. Catalogues and full information should be forwarded.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2475.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 3, 1915, for furnishing by steamer, ready for erection by the Panama Canal, material for a complete locomotive jib crane of 50 gross tons capacity for Dry Dock No. 1, Balboa terminals, Balboa, Canal Zone, Isthmus of Panama. Circular No. 973.

Construction work, No. 2476.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 5, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment, excepting lighting fixtures, and approaches) of a one-story-and-basement brick and stone-face building for the United States post office at New Braunfels, Tex. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at New Braunfels or at the Washington office.

Post office, No. 2477.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, until November 6, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at East Pittsburgh, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at East Pittsburgh or at the Washington office.

Chain shafts, No. 2478.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., until November 8, 1915, for furnishing chain shafts and chains for the rolling crest of Grand River diversion dam, Grand Valley project, Colorado, consisting of 1 safety chain, 1 chain shaft, 1 operating chain, and 1 guard chain, all for the 60-foot roller; and 1 for 6 safety chains, 6 chain shafts, 6 operating chains, and 6 guard chains for the six 70-foot rollers. Further information may be had on application to the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C.

Construction work, No. 2479.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 10, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at Van Wert, Ohio. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Van Wert or at the Washington office.

Cylinder gates, No. 2480.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., until October 20, 1915, for furnishing the operating mechanism for two cylinder gates of 12 feet diameter for Sherburne Reservoir, Milk River project, Montana, and a duplicate set for Keechelus Reservoir, Yakima project, Washington. Further information may be had on application to the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C.

Painting materials, No. 2481.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kans., painting materials for interior surfaces of east main cell wing, in accordance with specifications. Copies of specifications, together with further information, may be had on application to the Washington office.

Concrete work, No. 2482.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Engineer, room 415 Customhouse, Cincinnati, Ohio, until October 15, 1915, for reconstructing, in concrete, top of spillway at Dam No. 4, Muskingum River, Ohio. Drawings will be on exhibition at the Cincinnati office and at the United States Engineer suboffice at Zanesville, Ohio. Blue prints of the drawings may be had on application to the Cincinnati office.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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ESTIMATED SHORTAGE OF FRENCH WHEAT CROP.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Sept. 9.]

A recent issue of *Le Bulletin des Halles, Bourse et Marchés* points out that the annual consumption of wheat in France averages 120,000,000 hectoliters [340,529,000 bushels], and that this quantity is about equivalent to the total average annual production of the whole of France in normal times. It is estimated that the total production this year will represent a shortage of approximately 25,000,000 hectoliters [70,943,600 bushels], and that the crop of the invaded sections, which must be deducted from the available supply, will represent a further 20,000,000 hectoliters [56,754,800 bushels], whence it would appear that the total available output will be approximately 75,000,000 hectoliters [212,830,600 bushels]. If the large influx of Belgian refugees be taken into account as partially offsetting the decreased consumption attributable to the fact that a portion of France is invaded, it is estimated that the total consumption will approximate 110,000,000 hectoliters [312,151,600 bushels] during what may be called the approaching agricultural year. It will therefore be necessary to import about 35,000,000 hectoliters [99,321,000 bushels] of wheat, representing a value of approximately \$180,000,000.

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF SPAIN.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, France, Sept. 9.]

The foreign commerce of Spain during the first half of 1915 amounted to 1,138,260,830 pesetas, of which, in round figures, 514,000,000 represented imports and 624,000,000 exports. [The Spanish gold peseta is worth 19.3 cents United States currency.] This is an unusually favorable balance (110,000,000 pesetas) for the period.

The imports during the first six months of 1915 were 75,000,000 pesetas less than those of the corresponding period of 1914, whereas the exports exceeded those of the first half of last year by 156,000,000 pesetas. The gain in exports consisted mainly of manufactured goods, which increased by 202,000,000 pesetas; shipments of raw materials declined by 45,000,000 pesetas, as compared with January-June, 1914.

GUAYAQUIL MARKET CONDITIONS FOR AUGUST, 1915.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Sept. 7.]

The weak demand for cacao obtaining during the latter part of July [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 7, 1915] continued into August, with few buyers; but the Association of Agriculturists maintained the price at \$10.30 per 100 pounds and purchased most of the quantity received. Few orders have arrived from New York and Europe. The receipts for September are increasing. The total quantity this year arriving up to August 31 was 24,603,400 pounds. The exports for the month, in pounds, were: To Argentina, 90,113; Chile, 13,510; France, 494,583; Spain, 351,971; United Kingdom, 575,239; United States, 2,870,967; Uruguay, 22,529; total, 4,418,912.

The coffee market was also weak, the price for first class being \$8.19 for 100 pounds, and \$7.56 for second class. The exports were: To Chile, 394,402 pounds; Panama, 10,269; Spain, 406; a total of 405,077 pounds.

Hides, Ivory Nuts, and Rubber—Exchange.

The demand for hides was firm, with no variation in prices, which were, for serranos, \$12.60 per 100 pounds; for criollos, \$11.81; and for picados, \$5.84. Of the 94,984 pounds exported the United Kingdom purchased 25,580 pounds and the United States 69,404 pounds.

There was a decided improvement in the market for ivory nuts during the month, \$1.22 per 100 pounds being paid for shelled nuts. France took 102,680 pounds, the United Kingdom 102,680 pounds, and the United States 8,214 pounds.

The demand for rubber was moderate, maroma selling for \$25.21 for 100 pounds, hojas for \$21, and serrano blanco for \$8.40. New York purchased the total quantity exported, 15,977 pounds.

The bank rate of exchange on New York averaged 238, which is now decreasing, recent exchange having been made at 232. The Banco Comercial y Agrícola received this month a further £50,000 to increase its gold reserve.

MORE FISH FOR INLAND LAKES OF ONTARIO.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Toronto, Canada, Sept. 16.]

A report is now being prepared by the Fisheries Department of Ontario on the advisability of stocking the inland lakes of the Province with fish for commercial purposes. According to the Minister of the Department of Public Works, it is felt that the introduction of commercial fishing with proper safeguards for the protection of game fish would have a beneficial effect upon the lakes in addition to providing revenue. Fish such as whitefish, etc., are not game fish and are not taken by the line, while pike and carp, which could be taken by commercial fishermen, now make the problem of restocking the lakes with commercial fish much more difficult than it would be if they were kept within limits. Should commercial fishing be permitted, the inland lakes could be stocked with whitefish and herring just as Lake Erie is now.

It is proposed to cooperate with the Dominion fisheries officials in securing a large supply of spawn for the Sandwich hatchery. It is expected that most of this spawn will be obtained from the fishermen at Port Stanley, Ontario.

SODIUM SALTS FOR PURIFYING AND CASTING CLAYS.

In Technologic Paper No. 51, just issued by the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, the results of some work involving the addition of small quantities of sodium carbonate and sodium silicate to clay suspensions are published.

Clays, mixed with water, may be considered to consist of a system of fine particles varying from comparatively coarse to very fine grains, 0.003 mm. and less in diameter. It is a curious fact that these fine particles are very sensitive to the influence of small quantities of alkalis, salts, and acids, and hence the properties of the clays as a whole are affected to an important degree by such additions.

Alkalies tend to break down the grains into still finer particles and to hold them in suspension. At the same time the fluidity of the system is increased so that a separation is possible between the particles capable of greatest dispersion (the clay substance proper) and the coarse particles which comprise the principal impurities.

A method of purifying clays is thus suggested.

Acids and salts act in the opposite sense, tending to coagulate the particles and to precipitate them. In the casting process employed in the manufacture of sanitary ware and other clay products the effect of the alkalies consists essentially in reducing the water content, and with it the drying shrinkage, which is essential in preventing the cracking of the ware.

The characteristic effect of the alkalies upon different American clays was studied from several standpoints, particularly with reference to the viscosity of the clay suspensions, the absorption of the reagents, the strength of the treated mixture in the dried state, and the influence of time. The effect of different clays upon each other was also studied.

This publication is for free distribution, and copies may be obtained by those interested upon request of the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

INTRODUCING AMERICAN COAL IN SPAIN.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Aug. 21.]

On June 2 this office reported a shortage of coal at this port. As a result many letters were received from coal dealers in the United States who were interested in introducing American coal in Spain. These were placed before local parties by this office and have resulted in the purchase of two sample shiploads of coal.

The first shipment which arrived here, I am informed, was wet and extremely slack, and in consequence it became difficult to secure orders for American coal. One coal dealer informs me that as a sample shipment its effect was almost disastrous, and has resulted in a prejudice against American coal which it will be difficult to overcome.

This coal dealer informs me that through the offices of this consulate he has received an offer from an American firm to act as its exclusive agent for all Spain. He has just ordered a trial shipment of 2,000 tons, which he expects to receive about the end of this month, and upon its arrival hopes to do a large and lucrative business. His connection with the American dealers was entirely accomplished through this consulate.

EMPLOYEES IN LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE COMMENDED.

Several persons in the United States Lighthouse Service have been commended within the past 10 days by Secretary of Commerce William C. Redfield for meritorious services performed under conditions of a trying or hazardous nature. Effective work during the hurricane that visited the Texas and Louisiana coasts on August 16 and 17, 1915, has received recognition, while numerous boats in distress, one wreck, and a disabled airship afforded opportunities for rescues that are entered upon the records as calling for special commendation from the head of the department.

Employees of the service in the Eighth Lighthouse District, with headquarters at New Orleans, La., are largely represented on this roll of honor, as a result of their aid given during the hurricane on August 16 and 17. Their names, with the reasons for special mention, are:

Mr. Benjamin B. Dorry, inspector, eighth lighthouse district, for energy and good judgment displayed in taking personal charge of the situation in Galveston, Tex., and promptly restoring aids to navigation to service condition.

Mr. William B. Thompson, keeper, and Mr. Charles C. Sapp, assistant keeper, Sabine Pass Light Station, La.; Mr. Harry C. Claiborne, keeper, Mr. James P. Brooks, first assistant keeper, and Mr. Christopher T. Morris, second assistant keeper, Bolivar Point Light Station, Tex.; and Mr. Sidney Gibbon, keeper, and Mr. John D. Balsille, assistant keeper, Brazos River Light Station, Tex., for maintaining, by hand, characteristic of lights under their charge when vibrations of the towers had put clockwork out of order. The keepers at the Brazos River Light Station, Tex., were also commended for efforts made to recover Government property.

Mr. George R. Smith, keeper, and Mr. Leon R. Smith, assistant keeper, Red Fish Bar Cut Light Station, etc., Tex.; Mr. William Hill, keeper, Calcasieu Range Light Station, La.; Mr. Albert B. Modawell, keeper, Mr. James Brew, first assistant keeper, Mr. Joseph W. Gauthier, second assistant keeper, and Mr. Ulysses M. Gunn, third assistant keeper, Sabine Bank Light Station, Tex., for maintaining lights under their charge. The keeper at the Calcasieu Range Light Station, La., was also commended for efforts made to recover Government property which had been carried away by the storm.

Rescues Made from Boats in Distress.

The Secretary, on September 24, 1915, addressed the following letters of commendation:

To Capt. William E. Gregory, commanding the tender *Kukul*, for the rescue on August 21, 1915, of three members of the crew of the gasoline boat *Favorite*, of Cordova, Alaska, which was wrecked near Point Hook, on Hinchinbrook Island, Alaska. The men were found in a destitute condition and were landed at Cordova.

To Mr. Elmo C. Mott, assistant keeper of Deer Island Light Station, Mass., for assistance rendered to the disabled power boat *Alice*, which was towed to the station and food and lodging given to the 11 men who were on board.

To Mr. Alfred A. Howard, keeper of Stage Harbor Light Station, Mass., for giving assistance to the catboat *Tribby*, which, with a party including several women aboard, was discovered to be in distress and was towed by him to safe anchorage.

To Mr. John T. Shipp, keeper of Neuse River Light Station, N. C., who on September 8, 1915, discovered the launch *Susie Swindell* with a party of several children and men aboard. The supply of oil being gone, the occupants of the boat had been paddling for several miles with small pieces of plank and were exhausted. Keeper Shipp gave what assistance he could and towed the launch to Oriental, N. C.

To Mr. John Safe, assistant keeper of South Buffalo South Side Light Station, N. Y., for going to the rescue of two men who with their disabled airship had dropped into the water about a mile from his light station.

A letter of commendation was sent September 25, 1915, to Mr. Malcolm N. Huse, keeper of The Narrows Light Station, Mass., for the assistance given by him on August 13, 1915, to the launch *Nautilus*, which had grounded on Lovells

Island, Mass., and for assistance given by him on August 15, 1915, to a motor boat with three persons on board, which was found to be out of gasoline.

On September 23, 1915, the Secretary commended Mr. William F. Rhodes, keeper of Romer Shoal Light Station, N. Y., for rescuing, on September 17, 1915, two men whose boat had capsized off the station.

JAPANESE BANKS FOR CHINA.

[Extract from Japan Advertiser, Aug. 17, by Consul General George H. Seldmore, Yokohama.]

Sino-Japanese Bank.

The Japanese financial authorities have for some time been investigating the best means of establishing a Sino-Japanese financial organ to meet the necessity of developing closer relations between the two nations, and it is now reported that the authorities have drafted a definite plan, obtained the consent of the Cabinet Council, and have submitted the same to the consideration of prominent bankers and business men. The main points of the scheme are said to be as follows:

The Establishment of a Manchuria Bank.

It is urged by some people that since the Sino-Japanese bank would require considerable capital in order to perform its functions satisfactorily, it is now advisable to earmark a part of the capital for the establishment of a Manchuria-Mongolia bank. But the authorities have decided to establish an organ apart from the Sino-Japanese bank to deal with Manchuria and Mongolia.

The Object of the Sino-Japanese Bank.

The business of the Sino-Japanese bank will include general banking business, loans against the securities of real estate, flotation of loans, and the issue of bank notes. No details have yet been decided upon.

It was first reported that the capital of the new bank will be 50,000,000 yen (\$24,900,000), but the authorities have consented to only 20,000,000 yen (\$9,960,000). It was originally intended that the new bank would be a joint-stock concern, with Japanese and Chinese capital in equal amounts, but since such a course may delay the opening of the bank, it has now been decided to open the bank first with Japanese capital only and let the Chinese take shares afterwards, if they desire to do so, and elect directors from among Chinese shareholders, if they hold sufficient shares.

It has been decided that the Government will guarantee a certain minimum dividend for the shares, and will further afford various facilities for the enterprise.

The shareholders shall, as far as possible, be limited to prominent bankers and business men, so that the basis of the new bank will be sound and strong, though, of course, some shares will be offered to the public. No details are yet definitely settled.

The Manchuria-Mongolian Bank.

The capital of this bank will be 10,000,000 yen (\$4,980,000), other arrangements being similar to those of the Sino-Japanese bank, except that the latter bank is to be devoted mainly to the exploitation of wealth in the region concerned. The question as to the relation of the new bank with the Yokohama Specie Bank, the Bank of Chosen, and the South Manchuria Railway Co. is yet to be considered.

The above being the general plan of the Government, it is subject to change, according to the opinions of the bankers and business men to whom the whole scheme has been submitted.

WAGES IN HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR INDUSTRY.

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics has just issued its Bulletin No. 177, showing the rates of wages, hours of labor per week, and weekly earnings of employees in hosiery and underwear manufacturing. The report is based on figures secured from the pay rolls of 75 representative establishments located in 14 States, these establishments employing in 1914 more than 32,000 persons, or more than 25 per cent of the total employees in the entire industry. Figures showing full-time hours of labor per week and rates of wages (or earnings) per hour are presented for the years 1907 to 1914, inclusive, and full-time weekly earnings for the years 1910 to 1914, inclusive.

The average full-time weekly earnings of the employees in this industry in 1914 were 2 per cent higher than in 1913, 8 per cent higher than in 1912, and 12 per cent higher than in 1911 or 1910. The average full-time hours of labor per week in 1914 were 1 per cent lower than in 1913, 3 per cent lower than in 1912, and 5 per cent lower than in 1911 and 1910. In the several establishments visited the hours of labor per week in 1914 did not exceed 60, except in a few cases, the average being slightly less than 55 hours. The average rates of wages per hour in 1914 were 3 per cent higher than in 1913, 11 per cent higher than in 1912, 18 per cent higher than in 1911, and 19 per cent higher than in 1910. Owing to the reduction of hours the increase in full-time weekly earnings between 1910 and 1914 was not so great as in rates of wages per hour.

The average full-time weekly earnings of employees in 1914 in a few of the principal occupations were as follows:

Boarders (males)-----	\$12.65
Finishers, underwear (females)-----	9.78
Inspectors and folders (females)-----	8.15
Knitters, footers or toppers, hosiery (males)-----	8.45
Knitters, footers or toppers, hosiery (females)-----	8.24
Knitters, web or tube, underwear (males)-----	12.74
Knitters, web or tube, underwear (females)-----	8.00
Loopers (females)-----	8.59
Menders, rough, hosiery (females)-----	8.11
Seamers, underwear (females)-----	9.60
Winders (females)-----	8.36

The bulletin also contains a statement relative to the variation of employment in the industry, based on the number of days the plants were in operation, the number of employees on the pay rolls, and the amount of the pay rolls for each pay period for the year ending March 28, 1914. The figures as a whole indicate that the industry had no specially dull or active season. The number of employees on the pay roll in the industry during the year stated reached the highest point in the eight weeks ending December 6, 1913, when it was 102 per cent of the average for the year, and the lowest point in the two weeks ending January 3, 1914, when it was 94 per cent.

It is the intention of the Chinese ministry of interior to allow only doctors who have received a recognized course of training in medicine and surgery to practice in the future. Some time must necessarily elapse, however, before the old type of Chinese doctor disappears.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Vice Consul Gerhard H. Krogh, Rotterdam, Aug. 20.]

The statistics given below have been compiled by the instructors of the Governmental Schools for Agriculture in accordance with particulars furnished by the Direction of Agriculture. In June, 1915, the burgomasters furnished information regarding the various agricultural products in their districts, as they have done in previous years. Although the statistics may not correspond exactly with those that will be issued definitely later on, it may be assumed that there will be little deviation.

This table shows the number of acres under cultivation for the years 1913, 1914, and 1915:

Products.	1913	1914	1915
Wheat:	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Winter.....	130,723	139,612	151,109
Summer.....	10,487	8,728	9,049
Rye:			
Winter.....	558,681	558,098	545,313
Summer.....	5,187	4,285	3,637
Barley:			
Winter.....	51,347	52,867	49,455
Summer.....	14,957	13,793	13,717
Oats.....	347,739	348,206	350,524
Buckwheat.....	25,815	24,100	20,885
Beans (various).....	41,859	39,912	38,940
Peas.....	68,214	64,814	61,071
String beans.....	18,550	19,385	19,093
Rapeseed.....	2,948	4,287	4,315
Mustard seed:			
Brown.....	1,997	1,594	1,455
Yellow.....	1,925	2,234	4,327
Caraway seed.....	13,657	13,059	9,533
Blue poppy seed.....	1,506	1,226	1,806
Flax.....	36,200	19,084	21,424
Tobacco.....	1,149	986	838
Canary seed.....	4,465	8,186	8,710
Potatoes:			
For table.....	341,396	346,642	344,270
For factories.....	78,674	77,167	80,132
Sugar beets.....	149,001	156,251	141,069
Chicory.....	1,769	1,648	2,313
Onions.....	6,528	9,006	7,559
Sugar-beet seed.....	761	432	462
Onion seed.....	247	240	220
Spinach seed.....	1,831	2,234	1,767
Radish seed.....	820	744	531
Red-clover seed.....	72,173	72,400	68,195

It will be seen that the figures for 1915 do not differ greatly from those for previous years. The only marked difference is the extension of the area under wheat cultivation and the diminishing of the area under rye and sugar-beet cultivation.

TACKS IN METRIC BULK.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Chile, Aug. 21.]

Local hardware merchants have informed the writer that they have heretofore purchased tacks, such as are used for carpets, picture framing, household use, etc., in small packages from the United States, but in bulk from France. This latter source of supply is now cut off. It is suggested that American manufacturers offer their Latin American trade, and other places where the metric system is used, tacks and small nails done up in packages containing 1 kilo (2½ pounds), and also that they offer them tacks in bulk, put up in small nail kegs.

[The name of the Santiago hardware firm referred to may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 670.]

AMERICAN TRADE METHODS IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Aug. 6 and 16.]

Local newspapers—*La Nación* and *La Prensa* of July 30 and the *Buenos Aires Herald* of July 31—contain references to a meeting of the board of directors of the *Camara Sindical de Comercio*, held on July 29, that should be of interest to American manufacturers and exporters.

This meeting considered statements that had been published in newspapers of this city in regard to the causes restricting the development of commerce with the United States. After an interchange of ideas it was agreed that if American commerce is to realize its ambition to secure this market it will be obliged to modify its methods of sale, manufacture, and shipment. A reminder was given in the meeting that European manufacturers grant to retailers here credits of 3, 6, 12, and even 18 months in which to pay for the merchandise; that the manufacture of the various products is carefully done and is perfectly adjusted to the needs of the country; and that the execution of orders is effected exactly in accordance with instructions. Therefore so long as American manufacturers do not adopt these methods it is thought that they will not be easily able to realize their desires here.

American Methods Not Like European—The Question of Credits.

Opinions were expressed to the effect that the methods used by American manufacturers are not the same as those employed by the French, English, and others, and that the European commercial development with Argentina is not due entirely to the credits granted by the wholesale houses but to factors of a different nature as well. The meeting referred to the fact that there had already been several American commissions in Argentina for the purpose of investigating and studying the reasons for the backwardness of American commerce.

Without admitting the full force of the criticisms that are more or less implied in these observations of the meeting, it can not be denied that American exporters would do well to consider the question of determining the amount and length of credits to be given in this market with greater regard for the financial strength of the purchasers here than is now the case. There are many houses here to which it is quite as safe to give long credits as to those in the United States or any other country. Repeated conversations with American and other importers here have afforded convincing evidence that the American method of selling on the basis of cash with the order, or part cash with the order and the remainder against shipping documents in the United States, or cash against documents upon arrival of the goods in Argentina, is seriously resented here, especially by responsible wholesale importers who have to give long credits to local retailers. There is also no doubt that many American exporters are careless of their failure to observe detailed shipping instructions that are given here with special purposes. It is certain also that some manufacturers often ship articles to South America of quite a different character from those ordered, seeming to have the altogether erroneous idea that the next closest thing will suit as well.

American Interests Must Build for Future.

Now above all times is the opportunity for American goods of almost all sorts to compete for this valuable market, but present efforts should be made with a regard for lasting future results rather than for immediate profits. A solid foundation should be laid now with the greatest carefulness, in order that when the war is over American interests as a whole will have taken advantage of the situation to intrench themselves securely here. Americans must remember that the Argentine people are quite as reluctant as they themselves would be to pay for articles of any sort that they have never seen.

Article Published in La Nación.

As illustrating the Argentine view of the conditions that it is desired to emphasize in the present report, there is given below a translation of an article appearing in the local newspaper *La Nación* of August 5, 1915, under the heading "American Commercial Policy." An article of this kind, published in such a leading journal, assuredly deserves careful consideration by American manufacturers and exporters who are competing for the markets of this or any other country. The situation here could scarcely be stated more forcefully and conservatively, and it is the belief of the writer that this presentation of it merits wide publicity:

The disturbance in the currents of our commerce with the countries of Europe has resulted in their deviation toward the markets of North America, which country now replaces them in transactions that have become restricted or are suspended. As the European conflict is prolonged, the Americans will continue to strengthen and to expand the positions that fatal force of circumstances has caused the belligerent powers to abandon. This auspicious situation for North American trade, however, will be but transitory if they do not take pains to consolidate these positions in such a manner as will enable them successfully to meet competition in the future. If, on the one hand, fortuitous circumstances are facilitating the action and the expansion of North American trade relationships, on the other they also involve contingencies that will have to be faced when the nations at present in arms recover their commercial and industrial activity. To-day, North American supplantation is imposed; it does not result from effort nor from initiative, but from the conjunction of advantages acquired in competition with other clients of the Argentine Republic, temporarily incapacitated from trading in our markets.

The North Americans are in the exceptional situation of being able to establish exclusive and arbitrary conditions, and this abnormal state of affairs might induce them to believe that they have no occasion to sharpen their judgment and to display commercial aptitude in order to conquer definitively the positions they have obtained through the European conflagration.

American Exporters Should Modify Systems.

This situation will be neither lasting nor tenable unless they modify their systems of sale, manufacture, and supply, conforming to reciprocal conveniences that will fit them to compete on equal terms with their rivals when these resume their normal operations.

The North Americans ought to model their methods on those of the countries of Europe, offering the same advantages and facilities, and adapting themselves to the exigencies and the peculiarities of the consumers whom they supply. They need to create an atmosphere favorable to their relationships, which will secure them a preference or which at least will not place them in a precarious position of inferiority.

To suppose that the boom and the accidental conditions under which they are now replacing the countries at war will continue after the disappearance

of this abnormal situation would be to fall into disconcerting error or negligence, which would inevitably condemn them to be ousted. * * *

Present Situation Abnormal—Conditions After Establishment of Peace.

Once the present fortuitous circumstances have disappeared, they will be unable to sustain their positions unless they prepare to confront the rivalry of those who have temporarily withdrawn. The Germans, the English, the French, will return, each with their commercial systems, with their goods manufactured at prices and under conditions that consult the requirements of our market, favored, moreover, by valuable traditional relationships long cultivated, and the North Americans will assuredly be dislodged if they do not adhere to a commercial policy of expansion, settlement, and reciprocity analogous to that of these competitors.

The American Government and trade should not allow themselves to be misled by the advantages and temptations of this abnormal situation. The time is now ripe for employing methods that will propitiate markets accidentally occupied, since these will otherwise be irretrievably lost or would be reduced to a mere ephemeral expansion.

Such a result may also be contributed to by the fact that the intermediaries and agents in the present accidental commerce are European houses and firms, who have recourse to North America only provisionally and who logically will endeavor to resume their original relationships as soon as circumstances allow. In order to prevent such a failure and to consolidate their situation the Americans must act with foresight, liberality, and a discreet and broad-minded realization of the precarious situation that they enjoy by favor of the present course of events.

CONSUMPTION OF MEAT IN BUENOS AIRES.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Aug. 9.]

Figures recently issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics and Rural Economy of the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that during the past four years there has been a gradual diminution in the consumption of meat per inhabitant in the city of Buenos Aires.

During 1914 the total amount of meat consumed in the federal capital was as follows: Cattle, 598,386 head, 294,378,194 pounds; sheep, 713,407 head, 41,034,884 pounds; pork, 165,464 head, 31,513,488 pounds.

The consumption of meat per inhabitant for the years 1911 to 1914, inclusive, was as follows:

Year.	Inhabitants.	Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.	Total.
		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
1911.....	1,360,406	275	53	15	343
1912.....	1,428,042	255	37	15	307
1913.....	1,484,010	233	26	15	274
1914.....	1,584,103	187	26	20	233

From these figures it will be seen that there has been a diminution of 32 per cent during the last three years in the consumption of beef and 50 per cent in that of mutton, while the consumption of pork has increased 28 per cent, although the aggregate consumption has never assumed large proportions.

The highest prices for meat ruled during 1914, and during the first four months of the present year there has been a marked decline, especially in pork. This sharp decline has caused considerable alarm among pork raisers, although it is believed that with the recent establishment of the new Armour freezing plant in La Plata better facilities will be had for the exportation of frozen pork, and this will have a stimulating effect on local prices.

NEW DOCK AND WAREHOUSE AT HABANA.

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul at Habana, Cuba, Sept. 2.]

The new terminal dock and warehouse of the Peninsula & Occidental Steamship Co. were opened for business to-day in the port of Habana. The Peninsula & Occidental is the first steamship line to possess its own dock and terminal in this port. The inauguration of this service means added convenience and comfort for passengers arriving and departing, since it obviates the necessity of using tugs or lighters for their transfer to and from the vessels. Apparently no detail has been overlooked to make the dock and warehouse buildings complete and modern in every respect. The brick and iron construction renders them as nearly rat-proof and fireproof as possible. Space has also been provided at the new terminal for the offices of the company, but a city ticket office will be maintained as before for the added convenience of passengers. The erection of the terminal has involved a considerable expense to the company.

The idea of the late Henry M. Flagler to unite Cuba with the United States by means of the over-sea railway extension of the Florida East Coast Railway and the P. & O. ferry-steamer service is now bearing abundant fruit. The business of the ferry service is growing so rapidly that the company has, it is reported, already ordered the construction of a second ferry steamer similar to the *Henry M. Flagler*, now in operation, making daily trips between Habana and Key West. This vessel can carry 30 loaded standard freight cars. The service has been a complete success in every detail and will be a special boon to the fruit and vegetable shippers of Cuba, as it does away with the necessity of transferring freight from car to steamer and vice versa at the terminals.

GERMAN RAILWAYS ANALYZE ACCIDENT RECORD.

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Aix la Chapelle, Germany, Aug. 28.]

The Association of German Street and Interurban Lines has issued a report relative to accidents in 1914. This association embraces 178 lines which, during the year, operated 750,000,000 car kilometers (466,027,460 car miles) and carried 2,750,000,000 passengers. The lines averaged one accident of a serious or fatal nature for 561,827 car kilometers (349,103 miles) operated.

For Aix la Chapelle, which has the largest interurban system in Germany, the average was one accident for 647,225 kilometers (402,166 miles).

The report shows that, as heretofore, more pedestrians were injured or killed than passengers. The association, taking an average for the 15 years from 1899 to 1914, says that 31.81 per cent of the passengers injured suffered accidents through carelessness while boarding or leaving cars. Of the pedestrians injured it reports that 54.46 per cent were careless in crossing or walking along car tracks.

The percentages of liability to injury for pedestrians and passengers, respectively, increased in 1914 over 1913 by 2.5 and 2.9 per cent. The fact that during the last five months of the year many cars were operated by new and less skilled men may account largely for this increase. Accidents which occurred in spite of safety appliances, such as guards and fenders, demonstrate that there is still room for improvement in such appliances.

BACK-YARD GARDEN CONTEST IN TORONTO.

[Consul Julius D. Drcher, Toronto, Canada, Sept. 11.]

The interest taken in Toronto in making practical use of vacant lots as set forth in a report from this office on "Vacant-lot gardens in Toronto" (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 26, 1915) is further illustrated by the meeting of several thousand people in Massey Hall on September 10 to witness the distribution of the prizes in the second annual Dovercourt Back-Yard Contest. In this contest 616 gardens were entered, of which 513 produced vegetables. The average size of the gardens was 1,500 square feet and the average space devoted to vegetables 1,000 square feet. The value of vegetables produced for each 1,000 square feet was \$30. About 70 of the contestants raised chickens at an average profit of \$30 for each contestant. It was stated by the chairman of the meeting that if 11 per cent of the back-yard gardens in Toronto was used for raising poultry the total value of the product would be \$264,000, and that if 80 per cent of the back-yard gardens of the city was devoted to the cultivation of vegetables the net value of the production would amount to \$1,875,136.

Archdeacon Cody in presenting the prizes said that the back-yard-garden contest was a good thing for four reasons:

(1) Hygienic—it helps to make the city more wholesome; (2) physiological—it is the best exercise a man, woman, or boy could indulge in; (3) it enhances the beauty of the city; (4) utility—it increases the productiveness of Toronto, of Ontario, of Canada.

If there was one lesson more than another that all Canadians should learn at present, he said, it was the lesson of saving and of production. In the Dominion of Canada the people would have to meet the burdens of war by spending less and producing more.

TOURIST TRAFFIC IN SWEDEN, 1915.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sept. 1.]

It has been the general impression both in Sweden and Norway that the Scandinavian countries would do a good tourist business traffic during 1915. In fact it was generally supposed that tourists from Germany would travel to Sweden and Norway this year in ever-increasing numbers for the reason that with the exception of Switzerland and Netherlands there were no other countries in the world where it would be possible for them to go.

Thus far, however, this has not been realized. On the contrary, the war has so greatly increased the cost of living in neutral Sweden that with the exception of a few articles of food it costs more to live in this country than it does in Germany.

The season is now so far advanced and the weather on the whole has been so bad that it is safe to predict that the tourist season is ended. The truth of the matter is there has really been no tourist season in 1915, and the travelers arriving from foreign countries have come in the interests of the business concerns which they represent.

There is every indication that the German tourist this season has sought some watering place in his own country.

LOSS OF TONNAGE ON THE PACIFIC.

[Extract from Japan Advertiser of Aug. 26, by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

The withdrawal of the Pacific Mail steamers from the trans-Pacific trade will have a most serious effect upon the Japan-America trade in these days of scarcity of bottoms. Just to demonstrate the tonnage to be taken out of the service between San Francisco and Japan ports via Honolulu we append the following table showing the cargo capacity of the Pacific Mail liners and that of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha liners:

	Cargo capacity.	Average shipment in Yokohama and Kobe.
Pacific Mail liners:	Tons.	Tons.
Mongolia.....	15,000	6,500
Manchuria.....	15,000	7,000
Korea.....	8,700	4,000
Siberia.....	8,500	4,000
China.....	3,800	1,700
Total.....	51,000	23,200
Toyo Kisen Kaisha liners:		
Tenyo Maru.....	6,500	4,550
Chiyo Maru.....	6,500	4,550
Shinyo Maru.....	6,500	4,550
Nippon Maru.....	3,000	2,100
Total.....	22,500	15,750

It will thus be seen that the Pacific Mail liners assigned about 46 per cent of their cargo capacity to shipments in Yokohama and Kobe, and the Toyo Kisen Kaisha liners about 70 per cent, the rest of the space being assigned to shipments from China ports and Manila. It follows that the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail liners from the trans-Pacific business means a decrease of cargo capacity of 23,200 tons, as far as Japanese trade is concerned. Even if the entire capacity of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha liners be devoted to the Japan-America trade, though such is in reality impossible, there would still be a shortage of 16,000 tons. Various Japanese steamship companies and individual shipowners are said to be contemplating filling the vacancy, but nothing definite has yet been decided upon. It is impossible to fill the vacancy perfectly, and the probable result will be an increase in freight rates.

AMERICAN CONSUL WANTS MORE CATALOGUES.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 7.]

In response to the request of this consulate for American catalogues, published in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 30, 1915, fewer than 50 catalogues have been received. It was hoped to obtain as many as 500.

American manufacturers should realize that the present is an exceptionally opportune time for the extension of their trade abroad, and that it is most desirable for them to cooperate with American consuls in foreign lands in an effort to obtain a foothold in places where in the past their goods have been insufficiently known. With the European supply largely cut off, a greater trade in Canada should be enjoyed by American manufacturers.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **branch offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the **file number** given.

Office furniture, No. 18535.—An American consular officer in India transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of office furniture, sporting goods, etc. The man desires to act as sales agent or is in a position to take over the management of a business in that country.

Typewriters, numbering machines, etc., No. 18536.—An American consular officer in Australia reports that a business man in his district desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers and exporters of office furniture and furnishings, typewriters, numbering machines, etc. Catalogues, price lists, and full information should be supplied.

Jewelry, novelties, etc., No. 18537.—A firm in Burma has informed an American consular officer that it is interested in American jewelry, collar buttons, novelties, etc. Catalogues and full information should be sent at once.

Musical instruments, heating devices, etc., No. 18538.—An American consular officer in Russia has forwarded the name and address of a man in his district who is in a position to represent American manufacturers and exporters of musical instruments, gas heaters, and water-warming devices. References are given. Correspondence should be in English. Weights, measure, etc., should be stated in Russian equivalents. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Vladivostock.

Air valves, No. 18539.—An American consular officer in Scotland transmits a letter from a firm in his district which desires to receive small metal air valves and metal stoppers, such as are used in rubber hot-water bottles.

Agricultural implements and machinery, No. 18540.—An American consular officer in Burma writes that a firm in his district has requested to be supplied with full information relative to an exclusive agency for the sale of agricultural implements and machinery. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination.

Machinery, No. 18541.—A printer and stationer in England informs an American consular officer that he desires to receive catalogues and full information relative to machines for making conical paper tubes for yarn and spinning purposes.

Dry goods, provisions, and novelties, No. 18542.—A citizen of the Philippine Islands who is now visiting in China has informed an American consular officer that he contemplates establishing a branch office in a Chinese city for the purpose of retailing dry goods, provisions, and novelties. Correspondence should be in Spanish or Chinese. Catalogues, price lists, and full information should be sent.

Paints, varnishes, and enamel, No. 18543.—A company in Burma informs an American consular officer that it desires to secure a sole agency for the sale of paints, varnishes, and enamel. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination.

Boots and shoes, No. 18544.—An American consular officer in India transmits the name of a business man in his district who wishes to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of boots and shoes for women. Correspondence may be in English.

Wharf extension, No. 18545.—The office of the British Trade Commissioner in Canada reports that tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the carrying out of wharf extension work at the entrance to the Mission River at Fort William, district of Thunder Bay, Ontario. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, where copies of specifications and forms of tender may now be obtained. The date for the receipt of bids is not stated. Each tender must be accompanied by a certified check for 10 per cent of the amount of the offer, made payable to the Ministry of Public Works. Local representation is necessary. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Umbrella frames and metal snap fasteners, No. 18546.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a business man in Spain desires to purchase umbrella frames and metal snap fasteners for women's dresses, the umbrellas to be of the fast system, size 64 centimeters, of 8 ribs, with ring, colors to be black and maroon. Quotations for 1,000, 5,000, and 10,000 dozens. Sample to be submitted with prices.

Dredger, No. 18547.—In pursuance to a royal order, tenders are invited until October 17, 1915, for the construction and delivery to the Spanish Royal Navy of a dredger for the royal dockyard at La Carraca, San Fernando, Cadiz, Spain. Tenders will be received at the Spanish Ministry of Marine, Madrid. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Jute and burlap, No. 18548.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Canada requesting the names of jute and burlap manufacturers.

Cotton goods, etc., No. 18549.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a firm in Australia desires to communicate with manufacturers of white and printed muslin, printed voiles, white pique, linings, and buttons for women's blouses, skirts, and children's dresses. Catalogues for winter goods to reach firm by November 1. References given. Cash against documents.

General representation, No. 18550.—A letter to the Bureau states that a man in Spain wishes to represent American exporters in that country and Portugal. No particular line is mentioned. The letter states that references can be furnished.

Railways, No. 18551.—An American consular officer reports that bids will be received by the "Dirección-General de Obras Públicas, Ministerio de Fomento," Madrid, for the construction of strategic railways (1) from Estada and Tamarite to Balaguer and (2) from Gibráleon, via Paimogo, to the Portuguese frontier. The lines will be of meter gauge. The minimum weight per linear meter of the rails to be used will be 30 kilos (66 pounds). The troop trains must have a speed of at least 25 kilometers (about 15½ miles) per hour. Tenders for electric traction will be considered. Bids will be received at the "Dirección General" until February 19, 1916, for No. 1 and until November 20, 1915, for No. 2.

Flannel, No. 18552.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in Ecuador is in the market for white, sky-blue, pink, and red flannel. The width of the flannel and the cost per bolt are requested. Sample of flannel may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 66).

White pine lumber, No. 18553.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm in Greece wishes to secure 71,000 feet of white pine or spruce. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Mesh wire screen, No. 18554.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a business man in Spain is desirous of obtaining mesh wire screen cloth for filters. The price per square meter, f. o. b. any port having direct service with Spain is desired. Sample of the cloth is transmitted, and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 65.)

Structural iron, paints, hosiery, etc., No. 18555.—A representative of a Greek firm who is now in this country informs a commercial agent of the Bureau that he is interested in purchasing structural iron, paints, hosiery, and boots and shoes.

Glue, buttons, mirrors, etc., No. 18556.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm in Australia desires to correspond with manufacturers of glue, buttons, mirrors, pins, musical strings, shellac, and novelties. Catalogues, price lists, and full information are requested. It is stated that the firm is willing to act as a representative.

Machinery, No. 18557.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a man in his district has a number of requests for information relative to machinery for the manufacture of corn products, such as corn flour, etc. Catalogues and price lists of corn machinery and agricultural implements are requested.

- Electric-light accessories*, No. 18558.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district desires catalogues and price lists from manufacturers of brass parts for electric-light accessories. Samples accompany the report and may be examined at the Bureau and its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 66372.)
- Barium dioxide*, No. 18559.—A dealer in chemical products in Spain informs an American consular officer that he wishes to purchase barium dioxide. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Pumps*, No. 18560.—A firm in India informs an American consular officer that it desires to correspond with manufacturers of pumps.
- Building material, etc.*, No. 18561.—A report from an American consular officer in the United Kingdom states that a firm is in the market for light building material and general merchandise. The firm states that it is willing to act as agent for products of any description.
- Machinery*, No. 18562.—An American consular officer in Australia reports that a business man desires to correspond with manufacturers of the most modern machinery for the equipment of a plant to manufacture Portland cement. Prices, catalogues, and dates of delivery are requested.
- Railway supplies*, No. 18563.—By royal decree of August 19, 1915, the "Ministerio de Fomento" is authorized to purchase, by public competition, locomotives and railway materials for the railway from Betanzes to Ferrel. The cost and specifications are not mentioned, but they are on file in the "Ministerio de Fomento," Madrid, Spain, where they may be seen. Proposals should be submitted in Spanish language. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.
- Seeds*, No. 18564.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that an importer of seeds desires to receive catalogues and price lists of garden, vegetable, and flower seeds. Catalogues and correspondence must be in Spanish.
- Iron, lead, etc.*, No. 18565.—A report from an American consular officer states that a firm in Portugal desires to get in touch with exporters of iron, lead, copper, tin plates, lathes, and chain cables. Catalogues and price lists are desired at once. Correspondence may be in English.
- Scrap steel*, No. 18566.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that there is a good market there for scrap steel. One request for 2,000 tons has already been received, and it is probable that the demand will largely exceed this, provided a supply can be obtained at reasonable cost. Quotations should be made, if possible, for delivery at Hankow or Shanghai. Reference given.
- Malt*, No. 18567.—A report from an American consular officer in Switzerland states that a firm in his district desires to correspond with manufacturers or exporters of malt. References given. Correspondence may be in German or French.
- Haberdashery, etc.*, No. 18568.—A firm in Spain informs an American consular officer that it desires to represent American exporters on a commission basis. Agencies for haberdashery and inexpensive jewelry are preferred. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Cotton goods*, No. 18569.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm is extremely anxious to import white, dyed, colored, and printed Manchester type cotton goods, 26 to 27 inches wide, weight 80 to 90 grams per square meter, and more than 102 grams per square meter, the last weight must be guaranteed by reason of certain tariff classifications. Samples and prices with complete information are solicited. Weights to be in metric system. Cash against documents.
- Ochers, oxide of iron, etc.*, No. 18570.—A firm in India informs an American consular officer that it desires to find a market for red and yellow ochers, oxide of iron, galena, and bauxite.

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SHIPMENTS FROM LONDON TO UNITED STATES.

[Cablegram from American Consulate General, London.]

The total value of the articles invoiced through the American consulate general at London, England, for the United States during the nine months ended September 30, 1915, was \$104,159,183, compared with \$98,202,629 for the corresponding months in 1914. The shipments of rubber were valued at \$43,080,562, compared with \$25,303,056 for the 1914 period; tin, \$7,635,665, compared with \$11,315,356; wool, \$6,417,593, against \$4,321,405; precious stones, \$5,993,397, against \$4,907,783; tea, \$2,660,402, against \$2,691,852; and indigo, \$374,413, against \$34,693. The value of the exports for September was \$11,819,822, compared with \$10,704,442 for August.

FRENCH CROPS FOR CURRENT YEAR.

[Cablegram from American Consulate General, Paris.]

The Minister of Agriculture publishes in the Journal Officiel the following estimates of French crops for 1915: Wheat, 6,472,020 metric tons, against 7,870,321 tons in 1914; spelt, 114,210 tons, against 133,976 tons; rye, 992,820 tons, against 1,138,326 tons; barley, 786,275 tons, against 1,004,493 tons; and oats, 3,746,220 tons, against 4,665,472 tons.

The reason for the stronger tendencies and record buying of low-grade apples in the Pacific Northwest recently was made known in the fact that practically all the recent purchases were for shipment to Europe, states a Portland, Oreg., press report. Conservative estimates of the orders places the total at almost 500 carloads.

NICARAGUAN MORATORIUM LAW EXTENSION.

[Consul Harold D. Clum, Corinto, Aug. 27.]

The general moratorium established by the law promulgated October 23, 1914, and extended for six months by the law passed by the Nicaraguan Congress on February 25, 1915, expired August 26, but certain provisions remain in force.

It is provided that after the expiration of the six months referred to in the law, and while the present European war lasts, to every debtor who may be sued and who proves that he has more protected assets than liabilities, in a summary proceeding with the creditors and with the presence of the representative of the public ministry, the judge will grant a stay proportional to his business, which can not be prolonged for more than a year, counting from the date of the petition. This petition for a stay will suspend every other executory action pending against the petitioner, and once it is granted it will be understood that the stay allowed is for all his business, and in no case can it be granted to him a second time in accordance with the law.

May Be Declared Fraudulent Bankrupt.

Against the decision of the judge no recourse whatever will be admitted. The fact of his giving a false or incomplete declaration, to the damage of his creditors, will be sufficient cause for the debtor to be declared a fraudulent bankrupt. The judge will put an end to the stay on petition of any creditor, if it is shown that the assets have diminished through lack of care or fraud on the part of the debtor.

It is also provided that for the duration of the European war and until the National Bank of Nicaragua (Inc.) resumes the sale of foreign exchange for córdobas, debts owned by concerns of this country and payable in American or other foreign currency can not be collected by judicial means unless the creditors will accept payment in Nicaraguan córdobas on a par with United States gold (1 córdoba for \$1) and stand the loss to be incurred in purchasing exchange or currency for remittance to the United States or other foreign country.

Rate for Drafts on United States.

Drafts on the United States now sell at about 15 per cent premium. It is reported on apparently good authority that the National Bank will probably resume the sale of exchange within two or three months, but no official announcement has yet been made.

In view of the financial conditions existing in Nicaragua at present, and the provisions of law quoted, it would be advisable for American exporters to confine credit operations to those firms with whose standing they are acquainted.

According to the Hochi, the Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce intends, from next fiscal year, to start the expansion of the Edamitsu Iron Foundry, the work to be spread over six years. The total cost is estimated at 35,000,000 yen (\$17,500,000). The program contemplated is the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of dyestuffs.

DANGER IN OXIDATION OF FUSIBLE TIN BOILER PLUGS.

The attention of the United States Bureau of Standards has been directed to the failure and deterioration of fusible tin boiler plugs in service. In some cases such plugs have failed to melt and so give warning of dangerous boiler conditions, and investigation has shown that the tin filling in these cases had become oxidized to tin oxide (SnO_2), which has a melting point above 1600°C . (2900°F .).

About 1,050 plugs, of which 100 were plugs which had been in service, were obtained through the courtesy of the United States Steamboat-Inspection Service, and subjected to examination. This included inspection of design and construction, condition, and purity of the tin filling, and in the case of the used plugs their classification according to the type of deterioration undergone by them in service.

One pronounced and dangerous type of deterioration is the oxidation of the tin along the grain boundaries, by which is formed a network of oxide throughout the tin. This is shown to be due to the presence of zinc in amounts as low as 0.3 per cent.

Lead and zinc are found to be the principal impurities in tin plug fillings, and since all "failed" plugs contained these or other impurities the conclusion is reached that if these impurities are eliminated by strict specifications and inspection, which will allow only admittedly superior qualities of tin, such as Banca and some others, the danger of failures of these plugs will no longer exist.

Directions are given for the testing of the purity of the tin in such plugs. Copies of the report upon this investigation, Technologic Paper No. 53, may be obtained without charge by interested parties upon application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

SWEDISH TRADE WITH JAPAN.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Aug. 23.]

Swedish trade journals are commenting upon a report issued by the Japanese Secretary of the Interior, which deals with the development of Swedish-Japanese trade. It shows conclusively that Swedish merchants and manufacturers have been able to utilize the opportunities created by the war and greatly increase the turnover of the business done with the Far East. The trade summary is for the first four months of the present calendar year and shows that the exports from this country to Japan during that time amounted to \$1,332,299, against \$969,469 in 1914 and \$662,835 in 1913.

The success of Sweden in this direction is due primarily to the initiative and energy of the Swedish-East Asiatic Steamship Co. This company was founded about three years ago and began running a regular line of vessels from Goteborg to Yokohama, with intermediate ports of call at Bombay, Singapore, and Shanghai.

The progress made in the exportation of Swedish merchandise to Japan is the more remarkable when one considers that the exportations of some other countries to the Far East, especially England, show a noticeable decrease. While the war situation generally has considerable to do with fluctuations in export statistics, yet the efforts of Sweden to gain a foothold in China and Japan are apt to meet with definite and lasting results.

REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD OHMS.

Although electric light and power are to-day in almost universal use, the average consumer pays little attention to the manner in which the amount of his bill is determined. He knows that his consumption of current is reckoned from his meter, but he does not know how his meter was originally adjusted or how it is checked from time to time to determine if its indications are correct. Only in rare instances does he know very much about the electrical units in terms of which his measurements are expressed, and still less concerning the fundamental electrical units to which these measurements are referred.

These fundamental units, the ohm (the unit of resistance), the ampere (the unit of current), and the volt (the unit of electromotive force), were defined by the International Congress on Electrical Units and Standards (London, 1908), and have since been internationally adopted.

The United States Bureau of Standards has just issued a publication, Scientific Paper No. 256, dealing with the construction of four standard ohms. This unit was defined by the London Congress as the electrical resistance offered to an unvarying electric current by a column of mercury at the temperature of melting ice, 14.4521 grams in mass, of a constant cross sectional area and of a length of 106.300 centimeters. The work done at the Bureau of Standards consisted in the construction of material standards representing the unit realized in the form of mercury columns in glass tubes, and the work involved measurements of the highest accuracy of the length, the departure from uniformity of the cross section, and the mercury content of each tube, as well as their comparison with working standard. All measurements had to be made at the melting temperature of ice prepared from specially purified water, which was used in order to avoid any temperature uncertainty due to possible impurities in the ice.

Electrical comparisons of the four standards showed the average deviation of their individual values from their mean value to be less than one one-hundred thousandth of an ohm.

England, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, and the United States now have mercury standards of resistance, which all agree to a high accuracy.

Similarly accurate work has been done at the bureau with regard to the ampere and the standard volt, so that the public can be assured that the electrical standards maintained at their national standardizing laboratory are of an accuracy far exceeding any commercial requirements.

Copies of the publication referred to may be obtained, without charge, from the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

Enlargement of Kingston Pumping Plant Recommended.

Consul Felix S. S. Johnston, of Kingston, Ontario, reports that the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association has recommended that the capacity of the local pumping plant be increased, that a new boiler be purchased for the pumps, and that the water main be renewed between the pumping station and standpipes.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The total imports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended September 25, 1915, were as follows: Ore, matte, and regulus (copper contents), 3,089,314 pounds, valued at \$362,953; pigs, ingots, and old, etc., 3,706,464 pounds, valued at \$472,501. Of the ore, matte, and regulus imported, 1,039,360 pounds came from Cuba, 646,606 pounds from Canada, 618,093 pounds from Chile, and 508,000 pounds from Peru. Of the imports of ingots, etc., 2,030,827 pounds came from Peru, 786,560 pounds from England, and 760,826 pounds from Chile.

Of the total domestic exports of pigs, bars, etc., amounting to 8,273,626 pounds, valued at \$1,568,448, 5,257,786 pounds went to France, 1,368,899 pounds to England, and 1,273,266 pounds to Italy.

AMERICAN COTTON STATISTICS.

Census report shows 2,900,007 bales, counting round as half bales, ginned from the growth of 1915 to September 25, compared with 3,393,752 for 1914 and 3,246,655 for 1913. Round bales included this year are 32,263, compared with 3,394 for 1914 and 26,983 for 1913. Sea island included 19,094 for 1915, 13,927 for 1914, and 10,570 for 1913.

Cotton consumed during August, 1915, amounted to 464,486 bales. Cotton on hand in consuming establishments on August 31 was 1,166,190 bales, and in public storage and at compresses 1,676,231 bales. The number of active consuming cotton spindles for the month was 31,064,519. Domestic cotton exported during September, 1915, was 494,532 running bales, and foreign cotton imported 26,092 equivalent 500-pound bales.

JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT SAN FRANCISCO.

[Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, San Francisco, Sept. 8.]

At a recent meeting of the Japanese Business Men's Association of San Francisco the form and name of the organization was changed and the field of its commercial activity enlarged. Hereafter the body will be known as the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and will have as its main object the promotion of business relations between the United States and Japan. Its headquarters are at 444 Bush Street, this city.

Mr. T. I. Kawashima, the secretary, states that the new chamber is desirous of receiving trade literature and will particularly welcome industrial samples.

ROSARIO FUNDS FLOATING DEBT.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, Argentina, Aug. 25.]

The Rosario City Council sanctioned on August 24, 1915, a project for funding the present floating debt, as well as that likely to arise through this year's deficit and future payments for expropriations. The executive is authorized to issue bonds to the amount of 6,000,000 paper pesos (\$2,547,600) in six series of 1,000,000 pesos (\$424,600) each. Bonds will bear 6 per cent interest and an accumulative annual amortization of 2 per cent is provided for. Bonds will be offered to the city's creditors at par.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**ARGENTINA.**

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, Aug. 25.]

Projected Railway.

The Argentine Government has authorized the Administration of State Railways to trace a line to run from San Luis on the Pacific Railway to Milagro on the Northern Argentine (State) Line and pass through Candelaria, Quines, and San Francisco. An appropriation of \$23,353 is made for preliminary studies.

The Government considers that the construction of the line should be commenced as soon as practicable in view of the present difficult economic situation which the work would tend to improve. The presence of water in the zone to be crossed will facilitate the work and also fill a want experienced on the Northern Argentine Line between Serrezuela and Tello.

School Buildings—Port Works.

The Government of the Province of Santa Fe has signed a contract with the firm of J. Allende Posse, Avenida Vélez Sarsfield 240, Cordoba, for the construction of four school buildings—two in Rosario and two in Santa Fe. The total cost of the four buildings will be approximately \$255,000. Work is to start as soon as possible.

The Rosario port works (Sociedad Anónima del Puerto del Rosario) have been authorized to install a telephone service in the port zone to be connected with the city lines. The work will cost approximately \$8,000.

CHINA.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China, July 29.]

Projected Reconstruction of Hankow.

There has recently been renewed agitation with respect to the proposed rebuilding on modern lines of that part of Hankow destroyed during the revolution. An account of the conclusion of the loan agreement, whereby an English company is to furnish \$50,000,000 for this purpose after the restoration of peace, was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for December 8, 1914. According to an article appearing in the Hankow Daily News, for July 23, 1915, Commissioner Yan Tu has drawn up a comprehensive scheme of improvement. In a memorandum to the President of China, he compares Hankow to Liverpool in Great Britain and Chicago in the United States. One preliminary survey and one minute survey have been made, and all necessary preparations for laying out the sites, digging the new canal, and constructing the river bridges are, this article states, being actively pushed on.

An excellent idea of the general character and scope of the project may be obtained from the following translation from the Chinese National Gazette of July 26:

Existing Conditions—Request for Extension of Concessions.

The best part of Hankow is the strip of land along the river (Yangtze). At present this strip has been turned into concessions, and nothing can be done in regard to it. Next in quality is the land between the river and the old Hankow market place, which is the only area on which developments can be made. As the lower end of the old market place is connected with the concessions, no extension can be made on that side. At the rear is a lake, which

is low, and, except with great effort, can not be turned into a market. It therefore appears that this strip district is very narrow indeed. During the late régime, when Chang Chih Tung was viceroy of Hupeh, he proposed developing the lake at the back of the native city of Hankow, but on account of the enormous expenditure and the vast amount of work involved the proposal was dropped. As a result of the war at present existing in the world the President wishes to carry out an administration that will enrich the people; therefore, in the first place, it is necessary to remodel the old market into one like those existing in civilized countries. On the other hand, a new market place must be found, so that the trade may extend, and this can be done by developing the lake at the rear of Hankow, so that it may be amalgamated with the old trading area for the formation of one huge mart.

The boundary of the concessions nearly touches the Peking-Hankow Railway at the back, and the intervening space may be developed. During past years, when in need of earth, the railway company has dug away the soil. Thus many dirty pools have been formed and filthy, stagnant water has collected. During the summer plague may be engendered, and the consular body, taking this fact as an excuse, desires the extension of the concessions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs refuses their request in a reasonable way and has asked that this place be taken into consideration in conjunction with this undertaking. It is believed that when work is undertaken this strip of land can not be neglected; thus foreigners may not complain.

Difficulty of Transportation—Plan to Open a Canal.

The strip of land behind the concessions and the site of the lake are all distant from the river, hence transportation is difficult. Even when the market place has been completed and traders flock to the place, the river traffic will not be comparable to that of the concessions. Therefore, if it is desired that Chinese commerce should extend and expand, other undertakings must be effected. Let us take this future importance of Hankow into consideration, for it will be not only the commercial center of China, but the industrial metropolis of the whole country. If it is desired that factories may stand "like the trees of a forest," river transportation must be acquired. Having studied the investigation reports and learned much from discussion, those in charge of the project now intend to open a canal beginning at the upper part of the Han River, extending along the rear of the concessions and joining the Yangtze River, so that the old mart, the lake, and the concessions will be surrounded by the new canal.

Thus Hankow will be a triangular island; on every side of it vessels will be able to cast anchor, and communication will be much facilitated. The prosperity of the place and the development of industries and commerce will go forward by leaps and bounds. Moreover, the low situation of the lake makes it impossible for it to be as elevated as the old mart unless it is filled in. If the earth is taken from afar, the expenditure will be great. If the canal is dug, the earth out of the canal can be used for filling the low places of the lake. Therefore the opening of a canal will supply earth for filling the lake and will afford water transportation facilities to the market.

Construction of Bridges—Other Projected Improvements.

The Wuhan cities are like "the feet of an incense pot." The travelers and traders go to and fro by means of boats, but the rivers are too widely separated. When there is a strong wind and the waves are high, communication between the cities seems wholly interrupted. Moreover, the terminus of the Hankow-Szechuan, Canton-Hankow, and Peking-Hankow Railways are severed by natural barriers. Thus there are many obstacles. It is therefore proposed to construct a Wuhan bridge and a Hanyang bridge, joining the triple cities into one. Eventually the railways will form one trunk line, but the passengers will walk from one city to another by land instead of going by water and will not be exposed to the dangers formerly incurred. Thus transportation will be greatly facilitated and industries and commerce stimulated and encouraged.

In addition to the above, river banks, public roads, drainage, tramcar service, water and electric light, parks, hospitals, schools, and other public works will be gradually made so that Wuhan may become the foremost market place in the whole country.

In March, 1914, an English consulting engineer and a party of surveyors were sent to Hankow to make a preliminary survey. Upon this an estimated expenditure was drawn up as a basis for the flotation of a foreign loan.

was contracted from Samuels & Co., a British firm. But immediately after the contract was signed the European war broke out. Capital can not be imported during such abnormal conditions. In January, 1915, deputies were sent to Hankow for the establishment of an office there, and during the last five months a second survey has been made.

PHILIPPINES.

[From Manila Daily Bulletin.]

Road Construction in the Philippines.

Complete figures showing the results of first-class road construction throughout the Philippines during the first six months of the present year have just been received, and show that out of an existing total of 1,680 miles 136 miles were constructed during that period. Increases are reported from a great majority of all the Provinces. First place is held by the Province of Pangasinan, with a total of 131 miles and an increase of 26. The amount of money expended during these months has been \$1,717,335, which is more than has been applied to this purpose during any similar period in the past. This increase of mileage is the more noticeable because the proportion of the available funds which must be devoted to maintenance of roads, as distinguished from new construction, naturally increases from year to year. Practically all the existing mileage is the creation of the last seven years, for on June 30, 1908, the total was but 245 miles.

The expenditure on public works, other than roads and bridges, also increased heavily during the first half of this year, though not to as great an extent. This is particularly true of the drilling of artesian wells.

PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 7.]

Port of Lisbon Improvements.

A loan of 5,000 contos gold (about \$5,000,000) has been authorized by the Portuguese Government for the improvement of the port of Lisbon. The money will be employed as follows: Modification of the Alcantara dock and construction of the west mole of Santos dock, 1,000,000 escudos; construction of the east mole of the same dock, 1,600,000 escudos; construction of the third section of Alcantara dock, 1,300,000 escudos; Alfandega quay, material, equipment, and warehouses, 1,100,000 escudos.

All contracts, expenditures, etc., are under the direction of the Conselho de Administração do Porto de Lisboa.

SPAIN.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Aug. 28.]

Proposed City Improvements.

Plans for the improvement of the city of Seville, approved August 13, 1915, by the city council, have just been published, and when they are completed will largely transform the conditions in the city, especially as regards the water supply, drainage, etc., widening certain streets, construction of schools, markets, a great hotel, and paving the city streets in the most modern system.

In order to cover the expenses of this work a loan is authorized, amounting to 33,000,000 pesetas (at exchange of 19.8 equaling \$6,369,000), with an amortization period of 10 years, and drawing interest at 6 per cent.

The first plan contemplated the purchase of the San Telmo Palace and Garden and their conversion to public use, but owing to shortage of funds this plan has been discontinued or possibly postponed.

The measures approved and about to be undertaken in the near future are as follows:

1. 500,000 pesetas (\$96,500) are to be advanced to the water company (a British corporation) for improving and completing the present water system, a completely closed-in water system, taking its supply from Alcala and from the Guadalquivir River, which has been under construction for the past 10 years. The proposed extensions and improvements have been shown to be very necessary by the exceptionally hot summer which Seville has had this year, resulting in shortage of water supply, lack of sufficient power to pump the water to the roof tanks which are on every house, resulting in continued complaints by the people and the public press and compelling many of the householders to install hand pumps in the house to supplement the power pumps of the water company. Water has only been turned on by the company for short periods of a few hours during each day.

2. 50,000 pesetas (\$9,650) to be devoted to constructing, furnishing, and providing with necessary scientific apparatus a tuberculosis hospital.

3. 500,000 pesetas (\$96,500) to be used for improving the city and suburban roads.

4. 400,000 pesetas (\$77,200) to be devoted to the necessary improvements in the existing markets.

5. 4,000,000 pesetas (\$772,000) for the new paving of the city streets.

6. 400,000 pesetas (\$77,200) for repairs to the city hall.

7. 3,000,000 pesetas (\$579,000) for payment of the interest, amortization, and other expenses incident to the loan.

8. 4,000,000 pesetas (\$772,000) to be paid to the committee of the Spanish-American Exposition for expenses incident thereto.

9. 1,000,000 pesetas (\$183,000) to be paid to the same committee for constructing a hotel in the Eslava Gardens. (See COMMERCE REPORTS for July 24, 1915.)

10. 1,000,000 pesetas (\$193,000) to be paid to the war office for reconstruction of barracks.

11. 500,000 pesetas (\$96,500) for expenses incurred for the parks, gardens, and promenades.

12. 3,251,450 pesetas (\$627,529) to be devoted to paying the expenses of widening the streets of Santo Tomas, Puerta de Jerez, Campana, and Larana.

13. 3,700,000 pesetas (\$714,100) for acquisition of land to be used in widening the city streets, and for erecting schools and other municipal buildings.

14. 1,500,000 pesetas (\$289,500) for constructing a municipal home for boys, and aged men and women.

15. 600,000 pesetas (\$115,800) for three buildings to be used for municipal officers, fire stations, pharmacies, and civil-guards barracks.

16. 500,000 pesetas (\$96,500) for five schools.

17. 200,000 pesetas (\$38,600) for a vegetable market.

18. 450,000 pesetas (\$86,850) for three new markets.

19. 200,000 pesetas (\$38,600) for the purchase and repairing of Don Fadrique tower and the adjoining land.

20. 250,000 pesetas (\$48,250) for construction of a central park to be used for public cleaning.

21. 129,847 pesetas (\$25,060) for a public dump and crematorium.

22. 1,867,500 pesetas (\$360,427) for purchase of the existing drainage system now owned by a private corporation.

23. 1,600,000 pesetas (\$308,800) for work in the amplification of the city zones.

24. 400,000 pesetas (\$77,200) for expenses of complementary work.

25. 1,500,000 pesetas (\$289,500) for filtration beds.

26. 250,000 pesetas (\$48,250) for construction of laborers' houses.

27. 1,241,202 pesetas (\$239,551) for all other incidental expenses.

[From Gaceta de Madrid, Sept. 4.]

Telephone Exchange Construction.

Tenders were to be received until September 30, 1915, for constructing and working for 20 years central telephone exchanges at

five Spanish cities. Following the awarding of the concessions there may be an opportunity for the sale of American telephone equipment. The cities are as follows: Huesca (Province of Huesca), Lorca (Province of Murcia), Orihuela (Province of Alicante), Borjas Blancas (Province of Lerida), and Aguilas (Province of Murcia). The awards are made by the "Registro de la Direccion General de Telefonos," Madrid.

USE OF DETACHABLE ROWBOAT MOTORS IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Bermuda, Sept. 10.]

Bermuda presents a fairly good market for detachable rowboat motors. The colony has a population of 20,000, two-thirds of which is colored. The chief municipalities are the city of Hamilton, population 3,000, and St. George, population 1,200. It is estimated that there are now about 30 detachable motors in use in the colony, all of American make, 20 being of a well-known motor. These 30 were purchased during the last five years, and it is estimated that normally it might be expected that from 5 to 10 motors could be sold during a calendar year. The immediate prospect, however, on account of abnormal conditions, is somewhat speculative.

Bermuda depends in a very large degree for its prosperity upon the success of the tourist season, and the proportions of this trade during the coming season are somewhat uncertain.

Transmitted herewith is a list of local firms in a position to consider agencies for detachable rowboat motors. It is suggested that a single exclusive agency, preferably in Hamilton, is more satisfactory than two or more agencies, even though they be located in different parts of the colony.

[Copies of the list of firms mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 66159.]

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES THROUGH LONDON AGENTS.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Aug. 18.]

A few weeks ago a Port Elizabeth importing house brought a line of sample calendars into this office and desired to be placed in communication with the manufacturers. The calendars had been made in America, but had been obtained through a London agency, and all manufacturers' identification marks had been omitted or obliterated.

The samples were forwarded with a trade opportunity report in April, 1915, and price quotations obtained through a New York firm apparently acting as agent of the manufacturers. These prices were slightly higher than those quoted by the London agency for the same or similar products. This makes it appear that American goods may be purchased more cheaply through London agencies than direct from the United States.

The United States Bureau of Standards, which has just issued a report on the difference in weight between raw and clean wool, announces that copies of this publication, Technologic Paper No. 57, will be mailed to any interested person upon request to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. Results of an investigation of the loss of weight of raw wool when it is scoured or cleaned are presented.

READY-MADE CLOTHING IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 17.]

There is a growing demand in New Zealand for factory-made clothing for men, women, and children, and the tailor shops are suffering. In 1910, being the latest date for which figures are obtainable, there were 196,825 suits manufactured in clothing factories in this Dominion, 94,249 dozen shirts, and 355,445 other garments, of a total value of \$683,364, against 101,113 suits, 45,239 dozen shirts, and 27,985 other garments, at a total value of \$328,917, for 1905. The war has caused New Zealanders to economize until the demand for ready-made clothing has increased very materially. In consequence the tailoring business is very dull, with not much promise for the future.

The imports of ready-made clothing greatly increased during the four years ending with 1913, as shown from the following table:

	1910	1911	1912	1913
United Kingdom and possessions.....	\$3,907,989	\$4,542,391	\$5,085,780	\$5,880,211
Germany.....	27,262	18,230	35,632	27,496
Belgium.....	56,932	47,492	52,373	43,818
Japan.....	24,045	47,356	47,862	58,412
United States:				
East coast.....	78,531	131,449	118,348	158,584
West coast.....	7,606	16,682	15,247	46,470
All other countries.....	1,518	1,727	6,258	7,387

The imports of ready-made clothing for the first five months of 1915 were valued at \$2,030,460, against \$2,932,164 for the same period of 1914. This decline was due to the impossibility of the English manufacturers supplying the demand and the lack of American connections to supply the trade and the general disposition to economize at this time by wearing out old clothes.

The duty on ready-made clothing is the same from all countries—25 per cent.

It would seem that here is a splendid opening for American ready-made clothing, if the field be canvassed, since the European supply is so largely cut off. American styles, with a few modifications, might take well here, and a fine, permanent business be built up. With this in view, I am forwarding a list of dealers in position to handle such lines, and I believe it would pay to send samples with prices and, when possible, an expert to study conditions and arrange for agents.

[The list may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branches. Refer to file 66,005.]

"MEMO CHARGE" ON SAMPLES.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, Aug. 14.]

It is suggested that where samples are forwarded to prospective customers on "memo charge" sheets, where no actual charge is intended, that this should be clearly stated. The writer had an experience recently with a Spanish merchant who was highly indignant at being charged for samples. "All samples that I receive from other countries are free." A glance at his bill, and it was explained to him that no payment was expected for the samples, but that it was the manufacturer's method of retaining a record of samples sent. Many such misunderstandings would be avoided by clearly stating, in the language of the country, the purpose of the invoice in such cases.

BANK OF JAPAN MAKES REPORT.

[Extract from Japan Times of Aug. 24, by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

The bank of Japan held a general meeting on August 21, 1915. The chairman presented the report on the business for the past half year, and, after having it approved by the meeting, recommended the following profit and loss account:

Net profit for the term.....	\$1, 374, 621. 95
Brought over from last account.....	1, 029, 733. 41
Total	2, 404, 355. 36

To be distributed :

Ordinary dividends at 6 per cent per annum.....	560, 250. 00
Reserve	249, 000. 00
For depreciation in properties.....	4, 980. 00
Bonuses for officers and social expenses.....	81, 174. 00
Secondary dividends at 6 per cent per annum.....	560, 250. 00
Carried forward to next account.....	948, 701. 36

As may be seen in the account just quoted, some items were sacrificed to maintain the usual rate of dividends in spite of the rather poor result of business obtained for the term. Compared with the preceding term there is a decrease of \$1,992 in bonuses and social expenses and of \$81,032 in the balance carried forward, for example. Perhaps because of the high rate of discount having been maintained in the teeth of the slackening tendency in the money market on one hand and of the disturbances attending the war on the other there is an all-round falling off in the items in the accounts presented. In the first place, under the profit head there is a decrease of \$286,848 in the receipts from advances of \$70,716 in interest on Government bonds, \$85,656 in receipts from discounting paper, and of varying magnitude in all other items, thus bringing up the total loss in receipts to \$343,012. But as the result of retrenching expenses and other items under loss heads the net loss in the accounts is brought down to \$18,571.

A NEW BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

The establishment of a new banking institution under the name of the Mercantile Bank of the Americas, with offices in New York, marks a step in advance in the matter of providing adequate facilities for the financing of our foreign trade. It has an authorized capital of \$5,000,000, of which, at the beginning of operations, \$400,000 has been paid up, in addition to which there is a cash surplus of \$100,000. The shares issued have been taken in equal proportions by two important private banking houses.

This bank is organized to carry on a commercial banking business in and with the Latin-American Republics, especially Central America, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, where it is understood that active arrangements are now being made for the appointment of agents. It is proposed to conduct operations on the same lines as has been done for many years by European institutions of a similar character in the same regions.

The prime object is to provide financial and other facilities in connection with American trade to and from Central and South America.

VENEZUELAN COMMERCE REVIVING.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Sept. 2.]

The manner in which Venezuelan commerce is adjusting itself to changed conditions may be seen from the following figures for La Guaira. Trade was by no means good during the first six months of 1914, but imports, nevertheless, amounted to 20,000,000 bolivars (bolivar=\$0.193). In the next six months this shrank to 7,000,000, and for the first half of 1915 it has again increased to 16,000,000. Comparing figures for the first six months of 1914 and 1915 it is seen that American sales increased from 6,000,000 bolivars in the former period to almost 10,000,000 in the latter. While before the war the United States supplied 30 per cent of La Guaira's imports, it is now supplying 62½ per cent.

Export trade to the United States shows an even greater rate of increase. The exports to that country during the first six months of 1915 were more than twice as great as for any entire year before. The declared export returns from the La Guaira consulate show these figures:

Articles.	July-Dec., 1914.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Articles.	July-Dec., 1914.	Jan.-June, 1915.
Balata.....	\$4,788	.....	Hides and skins—Con.		
Bones.....	212	.....	Cattle.....	\$96,769	\$147,569
Books.....	303	.....	Deer.....	4,929	6,621
Cebadilla.....	7,428	.....	Goat.....	6,295	4,745
Cocoa.....	165,498	\$1,268,610	Pearls.....	.....	2,682
Coffee.....	57,355	161,594	Rubber, old.....	86	302
Copper, old.....	815	218	Sugar.....	11,696	.....
Cylinders, empty.....	742	2,159	Total.....	377,493	1,594,809
Gold.....	21,063	.....		
Hides and skins:					
Calf.....	15	309			

AMERICAN TRADE EXTENSION IN PERSIA.

A Persian firm's desire to purchase leather, copper sheets, and bar solder was made known in the United States through the Trade Opportunity page of COMMERCE REPORTS and through a confidential circular supplied to American dealers in these wares by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Vice Consul Ralph H. Bader, of Teheran, who transmitted the original information, has now forwarded a letter from the inquiring firm, which is self-explanatory:

We take this opportunity of tendering to you our thanks for having enabled us to receive so many responses to our inquiry for leather samples and for solder and sheet copper. During the past week we have received over a hundred letters and samples from American firms, and these are now engaging our most careful consideration.

In addition to the above commodities it may interest you to learn that there is an increasing demand for silver in Persia, and it is to be hoped that business in this direction may also ensue; but it must be remembered that the ever-rising exchange quotations are having a very serious effect on the trade of Persia, owing to the high prices which Persian merchants are called upon to pay for foreign goods through depreciation of the local currency.

The vice consul adds: "With the close of the present European conflict, Persia should become a fertile field for the sale of American manufactured products."

FUR-SEAL CENSUS SHOWS INCREASE.

A census of the seals resorting to the Pribilof Islands has been taken by the resident officials of the United States Bureau of Fisheries. The first part was made at the height of the harem formation in July. From the preliminary figures that have been received by wireless messages it appears that the number of harems on St. Paul Island this season was 1,789, against 1,316 in 1914, an increase of 35 per cent; while on St. George Island the number of harems increased from 243 in 1914 to 362, or 49 per cent. The number of idle bulls on St. Paul Island this year was 546 and on St. George Island 127, making a total for both islands of 673, an increase of 501 over 1914.

The second-part count, made early in August, was addressed to the pups. The number of pups born this year was 88,137 on St. Paul Island and 15,389 on St. George Island, a total of 103,526. The births this year exceeded those of last year by 10,276, or 11 per cent. The number of dead pups found was 1,810, or 1.7 per cent, indicating no abnormal mortality among either the pups or their mothers. The average number of cows per harem this year, calculated by dividing the total number of pups born (equivalent to the number of breeding cows) by the total number of harems, was 46. In 1914 it was 59.8; in 1913, 65.8; and in 1912, 60.4.

These figures indicate that the Alaskan seal herd at the end of the breeding season of 1915 consisted of approximately a third of a million animals of both sexes and all ages, an increase of about 40,000 over 1914.

The killing of seals on the Pribilof Islands was restricted in 1914, through provisions of existing law, to such numbers of male seals as were needed to supply food for the native inhabitants. The Secretary of Commerce fixed upon 3,500 as the maximum number which might properly be killed for that purpose. There were 1,764 seals killed on St. Paul Island and 971 on St. George Island. The annual shipment of fur-seal skins, to the number of 2,884, was made in October, and because of the depression in the fur trade these skins, which had been forwarded to St. Louis, remained unsold at the end of the year.

RESULTS OF TRADE-EXTENSION WORK.

[From Vice Consul John N. Wardrop, Sandakan, British North Borneo, July 16.]

During the past quarter the efforts instituted last year in the matter of trying to arrange direct shipments of rattan from this country to the United States have been continued. As a result an initial shipment, some 25 long tons in weight, was dispatched from here in June via Hongkong. Arrangements are now in line for further exports, and all the indications go to show that this business will probably become a permanent one.

The rattan is bought here by weight in Straits Settlements currency, while the freight from here to Hongkong, and the transshipment expenses there, are paid in Mexican currency, and after that the freight is based on measurement and payable in sterling. This will serve to show that, apart from the freight difficulties, this has not been an easy matter to arrange, but as the greatest trouble is always with the initial shipment the probabilities are that things will improve from now on.

ZINC AND COAL PRODUCTION OF Breslau DISTRICT.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Germany, Aug. 14.]

The Hohenloherwerke A. G. is one of the most important mining enterprises in the Breslau consular district. Its annual report, recently issued, shows that during the fiscal year 1914-15, the two zinc ore mines, Brzosowitz and Neue Helene, produced 283,512 metric tons of calamine-blend against 394,037 tons in the preceding year; the amount of calamine and blend treated or dressed was 396,918 tons as compared with 431,837 tons. Out of this there were produced 131,021 tons of zinc ore, lead ore, and iron pyrites, against 173,862 tons in 1913-14. The Hohenlohe corporation again handled 75 per cent of the total production of the Brzosowitz mine and 85 per cent of the production of the Neue Helene mine; the rest was sold in the adjacent districts.

Output of Furnaces and Rolling Mills.

The zinc furnaces produced 23,825 tons of pig zinc, 2,731 tons of zinc dust, 380 tons of soft lead, and 3,520 kilos (7,760 pounds) of cadmium, as compared with 36,324 tons of pig zinc, 2,654 tons of zinc dust, 624 tons of soft lead, and 3,673 kilos (8,098 pounds) of cadmium in 1913-14. The corporation erected several new furnaces for the production of refined zinc during the second half of the year.

The zinc plate rolling mills produced 7,867 tons of sheet zinc, of which 7,778 tons were sold, as compared with a production of 10,559 tons in the preceding year. The roasting furnaces produced 54,206 tons of calamine-blend, as compared with 82,960 tons last year, and 12,777 tons of sulphuric acid, as against 11,476 in the preceding year.

Hard Coal and Briquets—Improvements Contemplated.

The five coal mines of the corporation produced 1,591,080 tons of hard coal, against 2,082,480 tons in the preceding year. Of this amount 336,762 tons were consumed, against 405,438 in the preceding year; and 1,243,632, as compared with 1,689,407 tons, were sold. There were manufactured 38,950 tons of briquets, of which 36,769 tons were sold, as compared with 29,937 tons manufactured and 28,023 tons sold in the preceding year.

Improvements are contemplated at each of the five coal mines looking toward a greater production and more satisfactory working conditions. Old shafts are to be extended and new ones opened. More powerful electrical machinery is also to be installed.

SHIPPING AGREEMENT ON SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sept. 1.]

According to advices received, the Swedish Rederi-AB. Nordstjernan and the Norwegian South American Steamship Co. have formed a compact on the freight-carrying trade between the Scandinavian countries and the River Plate.

The Norwegian line, which has been formed and launched by some of the most prominent business men in Christiania, has agreed, it is stated, to refrain from entering Swedish ports, providing the Rederi-AB. Nordstjernan also keeps clear of Norwegian ports.

It is thought that the object is to counteract the threatening competition of Danish steamship lines.

THE JERKED-BEEF INDUSTRY IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 20.]

With the marked interest now being shown in meat packing in Brazil and the growing enthusiasm for cattle raising that is observable in many parts of the country, it is interesting to note that Brazil has for many years been manufacturing and producing very large quantities of the salt beef known locally as "xarque." It is the same product as the "tasajo" of the Spanish Americas, the "biltong" of South Africa, the "viande boucanée" of the French West Indies, or the "jerked beef" of our early frontier settlements.

Only fragmentary data as to the total production of the country are available, but one of the chief cattle-raising States of the Brazilian Republic, Rio Grande do Sul, which has the advantage of being on the seaboard and possesses, therefore, easy exporting facilities, has recently furnished figures that are of considerable interest.

Quantity and Value of Production—Prices at Seat of Production and at Rio.

This State produced and sold during the five years 1909 to 1913 as follows (values are in United States currency) :

Years.	Pounds.	Value.
1909.....	112,935,140	\$8,060,472
1910.....	124,468,915	7,601,735
1911.....	131,066,757	8,514,928
1912.....	153,384,985	10,206,406
1913.....	141,237,610	10,274,741

During the last of these years (1913) prices per kilo (2.2046 pounds) were locally as follows in the various towns in the State:

Towns.	Price.	Towns.	Price.
Porto Alegre.....	\$0.194	S. Borja.....	\$0.097
Pelotas.....	.205	Itaquy.....	.097
Rio Grande.....	.203	Livramento.....	.113
Uruguayana.....	.097	Quarahy.....	.139

These prices, of course, are those of the seat of production, not the market prices in other cities, which have varied with supply and demand.

The local internal-revenue tax of the State of Rio Grande do Sul on salted beef produced in 1913 was \$326,649 in United States currency.

The maximum freight rates that have prevailed are said to have been the following: For Rio de Janeiro, by sea from Rio Grande, about \$10 at the present rate of exchange; across the frontier, about \$13.33; to Pernambuco by sea, about \$11.50; to Bahia by sea, about \$11.75; across the frontier, about \$14.50.

The selling prices of xarque (salted beef) during the past four years at Rio de Janeiro are given as follows, per kilo (2.2046 pounds) :

Years.	Minimum.	Maximum.
1911.....	\$0.155	\$0.285
1912.....	.188	.317
1913.....	.272	.401
1914.....	.259	.372

[Consul Maddin Summers, São Paulo, Aug. 1.]

Opening of Continental Products Co., of São Paulo.

The last few years have witnessed in the south of Brazil a rapid development of the meat and hide trade. Rio Grande do Sul has long been known as a cattle section, large quantities of hides and animal products yearly finding their way to the United States and other markets. This great cattle section has gradually extended northward, and the pasture lands at Parana, São Paulo, and Matto Grosso have been found exceptionally suited to cattle raising. This industry at present bids fair to become one of the great sources of income of this section of Brazil.

Only a few years ago the Brazil Land, Cattle & Packing Co., an American firm, began the purchase of ranches and the importation of American cattle for breeding purposes. A little later the Companhia Frigorifica e Pastoril, an adjunct of the Paulista Railway Co., established at Barretos a large slaughterhouse and frozen-meat plant.

Realizing the future of the industry here, the Continental Products Co. began in 1913 the erection of a large refrigerating plant at Osasco, a small town on the Sorocabana Railway, about 10 miles from São Paulo. Work on the plant was delayed by reason of the loss of a large amount of machinery on the steamship *Santa Catharina*, sunk off the coast of Brazil. All the machinery came from the United States, and the plant was constructed by American engineers.

Description of Plant—Insufficient Tonnage a Handicap.

The plant was completed in March and opened recently. It has a capacity of 800 head a day. It is built on the unit system, and can at any time be extended without interfering with operations, and without additional labor cost in the handling of the various products. Great attention has been paid to sanitary requirements, and the plant is one of the most modern yet constructed.

The products will be exported to the United States and to Europe, according to the demands of the foreign markets. Several shipments of frozen meat have already been made. The company is embarrassed at present because of the fact that sufficient space can not be found on steamers for the transport of its products, but it is hoped that this will be remedied in the near future.

The local manager is Mr. Leopold Plant, and the purchasing agent Mr. Maurice Silverman. The address of both is Alameda Cleveland, No. 44, São Paulo.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 20.]

The Companhia Frigorifica e Pastoril.

The Companhia Frigorifica e Pastoril, referred to in the above report by Consul Summers, was formed in 1910 at São Paulo. Its capital is said to have been \$1,000,000, which was increased in 1912 to \$1,666,667. The concern held a 40-year concession from the municipality of Barretos to build and exploit a municipal slaughterhouse and use chilling processes in the preservation of meat. Barretos, the scene of the company's enterprise, is about 10 hours by rail from São Paulo, in one of the best natural grazing zones in Brazil.

The slaughtering capacity of the establishment is 400 head of neat cattle and 400 sheep or swine per day. The company acquired a total of 363,000 acres of pasture, at a cost said to have been \$403,933. It

has now in the city of São Paulo a packing house near the São Paulo Railway station, for distributing purposes, with three freezing rooms capable of holding 1,200 carcasses each. It was intended to put up a similar depot and distributing establishment at Santos for the company's export trade, but here so determined an opposition was encountered that the plan of acquiring land and erecting a building in the port itself was given up. In lieu of this the company obtained from Buenos Aires a large steamer, the *Rothsay*, which was turned into a floating packing house. It is described as double-decked, containing four chilling rooms, with a capacity of 2,507 cubic yards and a holding capacity of 1,900 carcasses. There are aboard two large steam ammonia compressors. The ship is lighted throughout by electricity.

The company reports that in June and July of this year it exported through the port of Santos 2,000 tons of refrigerated meat, valued at \$500,000. According to a statement recently attributed to one of the concern's most prominent directors, the future of the chilled-meat industry in Brazil depends wholly on two factors: First, the fostering of production in the country, which can be accomplished only by care of the range, the planting of suitable pastures, and the encouragement of individual property owners; and, second, proper care and supervision of cattle quarantines.

[Reports on the jerked-beef industry of Uruguay were published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for June 27, 1911, Mar. 16, 1912, and June 24, 1912.]

REMOTE MARKETS REACHED THROUGH CONSULS.

[Consul George A. Chamberlain, Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.]

At a post so remote as Lourenco Marques from the United States, propaganda for the introduction of any given article must continue for a period of at least a year before the preliminaries in the way of business connections can be settled and sales appear in statistical returns. When such sales are effected, those of which the consulate has any knowledge naturally fall into one of two classes: (1) Government importations that have been brought about or aided by the action of the consulate or (2) private purchases reported to this office by the importers themselves as having been due to the initiative of the consulate.

Among the more important of the Government purchases of American goods for which this office may claim credit are a dredge for the Port of Quelimane, value \$21,000; a coal-handling plant, value approximately \$200,000; steel rails (delivery not completed yet); two locomotives, value \$50,000; and a dredge for the Port of Lourenco Marques, to be delivered as soon as the war is over, value \$100,000. General importations traceable to the influence of this consulate covered a wide range of American commodities and included agricultural machinery valued at \$5,000; 20 steel wheel farm trucks, value \$1,000; a carload of wall board; \$2,000 worth of flour; trial orders for linoleum, scales, and electrical goods; \$10,000 worth of cube sugar, beer, flour, and barley; and a \$4,300 order for boots, shoes, lacers, and socks.

FRENCH MARKET FOR STAPLING-MACHINE WIRE.

[Vice Consul De Witt C. Poole, Jr., Paris. Sept. 3.]

American manufacturers may be able to develop in France a small market for American stapling-machine wire for use in book-binding, etc. It is estimated that before the outbreak of the war the annual consumption of this wire in France was between 750 and 800 metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each. It was furnished principally by German manufacturers. One French manufacturer (Labeye, of Meximieux, Department of Rhône, near Lyon) had had some success in the face of German competition, because of the low price of his article. This house has now closed down. Stocks of German wire are exhausted. The supply that can be had at present comes principally from a small French plant in the Jura and from Birmingham, England. One firm in Birmingham is supplying considerable quantities of round wire, but there is a perceptible scarcity of flat and flattened wire. Recently there have been imports from Switzerland.

Kinds of Machines Used—Prices of Wire.

The gauge and form of the wire vary according to the machines in which it is used. These machines are almost exclusively of German manufacture. The best known are those of Gebrüder Brehmer, of Leipzig; Karl Krause, Preusse & Co., and A. Albrecht; also La Saxonne and the Regina. Gebrüder Brehmer had their own house in Paris before the war and the other makes all had representatives here. The only well-known French make is a hand machine (Lotz, 51 Rue d'Hauteville, Paris).

It is said that there are more than \$5,000,000 worth of the Brehmer machines in use in France, and that this house furnished, before the war, from one-fourth to one-third of all the wire used in this country on their own and other machines.

The wire is round, round flattened, or flat. The German wire, which was in almost exclusive use before the war, was imported round or flat, the flattened being made from the round wire by drawing it through a special machine. The wire is tinned, galvanized, or coppered. The coppered is used only for cheap work.

Selling prices to large consumers before the war were as follows, per 100 pounds: No. 20, \$7.88; No. 21, \$7.88; No. 22, \$8.80; No. 23, \$9.68; No. 24, \$10.12; No. 25, \$10.56; No. 26, \$11.43; No. 28, \$12.74; No. 30, \$16.68; flattened wire, No. 1, \$11.43; No. 2, \$10.56; No. 3, \$9.68; No. 4, \$9.68.

Flat wire is also used in different sizes, the most usual being of 3-millimeters (0.11811-inch) width.

The wires most in use are Nos. 25, 26, and 28. The German wire was imported in large coils measuring 16 to 18 inches in diameter, packed in casks lined with waterproof tarred paper. These coils were received by the local agents of the manufacturers who sold the stapling machines, and by them the wire was put on small reels, each holding 2 to 2½ kilos (4.4 to 5.5 pounds) and furnished to the consumers in this form.

A gauge and sample card of the French firm of Labeye, mentioned above, is transmitted with this report [and will be loaned by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 66177].

CONSULAR ADVERTISING AIDS AMERICAN TRADE.

[Consul Maxwell K. Moorhead, Rangoon, Burma, Aug. 9.]

Commencing July 1, 1915, the Rangoon consulate adopted the policy of having inquiries from American firms in regard to the extension of their trade in Burma printed in pamphlet form and distributed among local dealers and importers. The idea of publishing these inquiries was obtained from Consul General Anderson at Hongkong. [Advertising in connection with trade-extension work is resorted to by many American consular officers. For recent references to this form of publicity see Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Dec. 14, 1914, and COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 26 and Sept. 14, 1915.] These pamphlets read somewhat as follows:

Specimen Trade Notices.**AMERICAN CONSULATE, RANGOON.****TRADE-INQUIRY LIST NO. 8.**

Rangoon importers and exporters are invited to correspond with American firms seeking Rangoon connections as listed below:

No. 24. *Smith indicator for typists*.—The Smith Indicator Co., 326 West Monroe Street, Racine, Wis., seeks a Rangoon agent for its indicator which automatically points out and follows the lines or notes to be copied from note-book, form letter, report sheets, etc. Price list and descriptive pamphlet on file in the consulate.

No. 95. *Paper towels and toilet paper*.—The Jones Paper Co., Twelfth and Glenwood Avenue, Dubuque, Ia., seeks an agent in Rangoon for the sale of its paper towels, napkins, and table cloths, and toilet paper. Catalogue and samples on file in consulate.

All those interested in the above inquiries are requested to inform the American consulate, Rangoon, where there are in addition on file catalogues and American trade publications. The public is cordially invited to make use of the commercial reading room in the consulate, and to inform the consulate when they are in the market for American products or wish to export Burma produce.

Brought New Acquaintances—Prices an Essential.

Up to the present, three such lists have been published, comprising 95 inquiries. Rangoon firms have reported to the consulate their interest in 25 of these, and it is probable that many other dealers have written direct to American firms. These lists have more than justified their publication, and will no doubt be of great assistance in the extension of trade in this district. A number of merchants who have never imported American goods and whose names were not on the mailing list of the consulate, having heard of the publication of the trade-inquiry lists, have applied for copies.

The trade-inquiry lists would be of much more value if American exporters would always send along with their inquiries illustrated catalogues and prices c. i. f. Rangoon. Trade discounts should also be furnished. Catalogues without price lists and discounts are practically useless. Recently a hardware dealer, seeking information as to wire nails, called at the consulate, but, unfortunately, the catalogues on file were without prices. This dealer stated that if he could have obtained prices an order would have been sent at once. It will take three months to get a quotation from the United States by mail and at least another four months before the goods could arrive in Rangoon, or seven months from the date of writing for prices. Supplies can be obtained from England in one-fourth this time.

Delayed Shipments—Ore for Sale.

A prominent Rangoon merchant complained that American exporters were very slow in making shipments and often failed to notify the foreign buyer of date and route of shipment. This merchant stated that on March 28, 1915, he ordered through a traveling salesman of a New York commission house several rotary pumps and that up to August 8 he had received no notification of shipment nor even an acknowledgment of the receipt of the order. This dealer does not feel inclined to order any more goods from the United States.

The manager of The Sun, the largest daily newspaper in Burma published in the Burmese language, has asked to be supplied with copies of all the trade-inquiry lists published by this consulate, in order that he may republish them in his newspaper for the benefit of his Burmese readers. In this way trade inquiries from American manufacturers will be circulated all over the Province and among a class of people with whom otherwise it would be difficult to get in touch. The manager of this paper also desires to obtain a list of American manufacturers or importers who would be interested in purchasing lead, chromite, and other ores. Any American firms interested should write direct to the manager of the Sun Press (Ltd.), 39-40 Sule Pagoda Road, Rangoon, Burma.

MOTOR-PLOWING DEMONSTRATION IN DENMARK.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Aug. 24.]

At the agricultural fair held at Vejle, Denmark, in July a demonstration was given of three different motor plows—one manufactured in Denmark, one in Sweden, and one by the International Harvester Co. of America. These plows were of the smaller type, suitable for an average-sized farm. Two of the outfits were equipped with 16-horsepower engines and one with a 12-horsepower engine; their traveling speeds ranged between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 miles per hour. All were of the one-man type. When the necessary attachments are at hand the same tractors can be used for pulling binders. Two of them can be used for thrashing purposes or other belt work without any changes, while in order to do this with the Danish tractor an extended shaft with pulley is required.

No calculation was made at this demonstration as to what the cost of plowing per acre would be, but it is clearly evident that power plowing is considerably cheaper than when horses are employed, considering that horses at the present moment are very expensive and that feed and labor are high. At present there are in Denmark quite a few larger plowing outfits at work, and while these smaller outfits seemed to arouse considerable interest among the owners of average-sized farms, it is yet to be seen to what extent they can be sold.

RUSSIAN COPPER PRODUCTION.

[L'Économiste Européen, Sept. 3.]

The production of copper in the Ural region of Russia during the first four months of 1915 reached a total of 6,460 short tons, an increase of 600 tons over the corresponding period of 1914.

VISCOSITY OF PORCELAIN BODIES HIGH IN FELDSPAR.

In the firing of porcelain, the deformation of the pieces due to softening is a serious source of loss, which led the Bureau of Standards to conduct a series of tests for the purpose of obtaining data for selecting compositions showing least deformation at the highest kiln temperatures. It was thought desirable to measure the degree of softening of a series of porcelain mixtures by molding them in the form of bars with enlarged ends, similar in shape to the halves of cement briquets, and subjecting them to a tension of 14.5 pounds per square inch at different temperatures by means of suitable fire-clay weights. The degree of softening was determined by measuring the distance between two marks 4 inches apart. The porcelains were first fired, under no tension, to a certain temperature, and then, under tension, carried to a series of temperatures between 1,275° and 1,380° C.

Higher contents of feldspar reduce softening of low compositions markedly. In a 45 per cent kaolin-clay body, 35 and 40 per cent of feldspar are most effective in increasing the softening, but higher percentages again decrease it. Still higher clay contents cause the softening effect of feldspar to diminish decidedly. Flint, in high-feldspar bodies, does not seem to be an important factor in governing the softening. For high-temperature porcelains, high-clay content is essential. High-clay bodies having feldspar as the only other constituent show very great rigidity.

The function of viscosity is not a continuous one. After attaining a certain degree of softening, a well-defined rigid state ensues which does not tend to approach further softening until a temperature of 1,345° has been reached. Beyond this point the second stage of decided softening is entered upon. Although showing the same degree of viscosity at 1,388°, bodies may be divided into several classes, according to the degree of softening observed between 1,300° and 1,345°. Within this temperature range greatest rigidity was shown by the following compositions:

Kaolin and clay.	Feldspar.	Flint.
<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
40	30	30
45	35	20
45	50	5
50	30	20
50	50	.....

Copies of Technologic Paper No. 50, describing the tests made and giving the results, may be had upon application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

SPANISH IMPORTS OF AMERICAN WHEAT.

[Vice Consul Jose M. Gay, Madrid, Sept. 3.]

The Gaceta de Madrid of August 30, 1915, states that during July, 1915, Spain imported 70,500 short tons of wheat, of which 40,300 tons were from the United States.

CANADIAN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN FOR FRUIT CONSUMPTION.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Toronto, Sept. 17.]

In a report from this office on "The Apple Crop of Canada," published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for November 6, 1914, it was stated that in order to encourage the home consumption of apples the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa had issued and advertised extensively for free distribution an attractive illustrated booklet, entitled "The Book of Apple Delights," which contained, among other matter, 209 recipes for preparing apples.

The fruit branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture has now begun an educational advertising campaign to promote the consumption of peaches and other fruits in Canada. The Toronto World of September 16 contains an official advertisement four columns in width and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, a reading notice 4 inches long, and an inch card calling attention to the Government's advertisement. In this advertising matter the superior quality of Canadian fruits and the hygienic benefits of eating good fruit freely are emphasized. It is urged that fruit which can not be consumed at once should be canned or preserved. The advertisement says, "More fruit and less meat should be the rule this winter. It would mean better health and greater economy. * * * Eat plenty of Canadian fruit—lock the medicine chest and lose the key." This official prescription might be followed in the United States with good results.

SUCCESS OF TORONTO'S HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEM.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Toronto, Canada, Sept. 22.]

The fourth annual report and balance sheet of the Toronto Hydroelectric System just issued shows that the gross revenue for 1914 amounted to \$1,501,291.47. The cost of current and operating expenses, including repairs and maintenance, amounting to \$874,358, giving a gross profit on operating account of \$626,932.89. Charges and allowances not strictly attributable to operating expenses in 1914 and other charges applicable to previous years absorbed \$69,536.10. Interest, depreciation, and sinking funds for the year absorbed \$556,513.55, leaving a net profit on the year's operations of \$883.24. It will be noted that the actual profits on the year's operations amounted to \$70,419.34, but that it was practically absorbed in liquidating liabilities carried forward from previous years, the actual earnings being approximately $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the capital invested. During the year the business of the system increased 40 per cent.

When it is borne in mind that the aim of the Toronto Hydroelectric System is to furnish electric light and power without any profit to the city, and that the low rates already prevailing were reduced by 10 per cent in the spring of this year, the showing made should prove encouraging to municipalities that are considering the advisability of undertaking for the benefit of the public the distribution of hydroelectric power obtained from Niagara Falls through the Hydroelectric Commission of Canada.

SEA COMPETITION BY SUBSIDIZED JAPANESE LINES.

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, Japan, Aug. 17.]

The Imperial Japanese Diet at a recent session made arrangements for contracts which may be concluded for the grant of shipping subsidies within the limits of amounts available for four years (from the financial year 1916 to the financial year 1919, inclusive) in accordance with the provisions of the ocean-navigation subsidy law in aid of navigation on the European, North American, South American, and Australian lines. The amounts are:

European Line.—1916, \$902,331; 1917, \$863,590; 1918, \$841,523; 1919, \$782,747.

North American Line.—1916, \$1,468,608; 1917, \$1,395,455; 1918, \$1,329,623; 1919, \$1,249,575.

South American Line.—1916, \$148,184; 1917, \$145,023; 1918, \$141,862; 1919, \$134,136.

Australian Line.—1916, \$86,557; 1917, \$79,806; 1918, \$84,495; 1919, \$93,872.

Contracts may also be concluded for the grant of subsidies within the limits of \$139,440 on the South Sea Line, \$49,800 on the Dairen Line, and \$124,500 on the Japan Sea Line in the fiscal years 1916 and 1917, subject to conditions.

When it is deemed necessary the Government may order an addition to or change in the ports of call. Passenger and freight rates shall be fixed with the Government's sanction. When it is deemed necessary the Government may cause passenger and freight rates to be lowered, specifying the different classes.

Government May Purchase or Charter Vessels.

Mails are to be carried by the vessels free of charge. The Government, by issuing orders, may purchase or charter the vessels on these lines at a proper remuneration. The Government may make the subsidized companies carry not more than three apprentices on board each vessel at the expense of the company. In times of emergency, the Government may use the vessels and the crews on service on those lines, but in this case expenses shall be paid.

Subsidies are granted in accordance with the provisions of the decree. In case the number of trips is reduced, or the mileage is shortened consequent upon the failure to visit the regular ports of call, the subsidies to be granted will be reduced in accordance with the provisions of the decree. In case the vessels to be used do not conform to the requirements of the conditions, either under the Government's sanction or under inevitable circumstance, the subsidies may be reduced in accordance with the provisions of the decree.

It is required that security corresponding in value to 10 per cent of the amount of the subsidy shall be deposited with the Government. In case the number of journeys is reduced without adequate reason, or proper vessels are not used in the service, or repairing is not attended to, or the time schedule is delayed or altered, or the contract is not fulfilled in taking or discharging mails, or the regular ports of call are omitted, or otherwise it is found that acts have been performed contrary to the provisions of the decree, a fine will be imposed according to the merits of the case, per day, per less than 12 hours, or per each journey.

Provision for Canceling Contract and Confiscating Security.

If the contractor has shifted his obligations to another party without the Government's sanction, or has not carried out the details provided for in the decree in the period of one year, the contract will be canceled and the grant of subsidies stopped. Further, the subsidy due for the navigation carried out during that year will be refunded, and the security confiscated.

Tables of salaries paid by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, the Mitsui Busan Kaisha, and the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. give some idea of the comparative cost of operating Japanese steamers and those under the American and British flags.

The salaries paid by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. have been uniformly higher than those paid by the two other companies. The Toyo Kisen Kaisha has been paying approximately the same salaries to its foreign officers as the Pacific Mail, but, as the salaries to native officers are lower, the average has been necessarily less. When the large subsidies paid to the Japanese companies are considered, it will be seen that the cost of operating Japanese steamers is much less than that for American and British ships.

[Previous articles relating to Japanese ship subsidies appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 13, July 2, June 14, and May 14, 1915, these articles also containing references to general shipping conditions.]

IMPORTS OF MOTOR CARS INTO NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Consul General Joseph I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Aug. 25.]

The following table shows the value of motor cars imported into New South Wales during the six months ended June 30, 1915. It will be observed that the imports from the United States occupied the leading position, except in motorcycles, which came chiefly from the United Kingdom. Naturally the war has, to an extent, unsettled conditions here. The decrease is also due in part to the disastrous drought of 1914-15.

Imported from—	Chassis for motor cars.		Bodies for motor cars.		Motor cycles.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915
Belgium.....	\$31,457	\$18,305	\$535	.....	\$7,353	\$98
Canada.....	177,798	87,543	40,518	\$22,478	.....	.....
Commonwealth of Australia.....	.....	.....	.....	321	.....	.....
France.....	181,325	28,410	3,007	1,470	.....	.....
Germany.....	124,236	6,949	7,609	1,246	827	229
Italy.....	82,273	70,725	7,854	4,813	.....	.....
Netherlands.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73	.....
New Zealand.....	49	.....	218	.....	.....	.....
Switzerland.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	606	780
United Kingdom.....	433,658	245,924	86,759	50,675	126,822	92,035
United States.....	482,922	281,823	132,100	82,200	1,893	6,691
Total.....	1,433,718	739,579	266,060	163,208	147,576	99,753

The numbers of cars and cycles in use, drivers registered, etc., up to the end of June, 1915, are: Cars, 10,570; motor cycles, 6,461; drivers registered, 17,432; motorcycle riders, 8,463; commercial vehicles, 639; taxicabs, 236; drivers licensed, 377.

Personal representatives of two extensive manufacturers of motor tires in the United States have been canvassing the territory of New South Wales and New Zealand and have been very successful in securing large orders.

DEMAND FOR BREADSTUFFS IN HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Aug. 27.]

From November 1, 1914, until August 25, 1915, there were imported into this consular district from the United States 6,324,700 pounds of corn, or about 100,000 bushels, and 6,772,500 pounds of flour. The imports into this district supply approximately one-half of the 600,000 population of Honduras. The purpose of this report and the investigation being made by this consulate is to discover, if possible, the probable demand for further importations of breadstuffs during the coming months.

No careful record is maintained of grain crops in Honduras. In this consulate's annual report on commerce and industries in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for September 9, 1914, it was stated that the Government reports showed 553,536 bushels of corn and wheat, these figures having been computed from the official report of the Minister of Agriculture, which was given in "fanegas," a Spanish unit of measure of about 100 pounds. It has since developed that the Honduras "fanega" is a variable quantity, in different parts of the republic running from 750 to 1,500 pounds, and the report by this consulate was correspondingly incorrect.

From a rather careful series of inquiries it has been estimated that an average corn crop for Honduras is 5,000,000 bushels, and that the present year's crop will not yield more than 40 per cent normal. Moreover, due to famine conditions which have existed for some months, a large part of the present crop is being consumed in the milk, so that probably not more than 30 per cent of a normal crop may be available for reserve.

It is further estimated that besides corn for seed and stock feeding Honduras consumes half a pound of corn daily for every inhabitant, or, say for all uses, not less than 1,500,000 bushels of corn is required for a conservative annual consumption.

The present year has been most seasonable as to rains and climate generally for crop growing, in marked distinction to the preceding year, which was the driest in 30 years. But a grasshopper plague has devastated the crops. For many weeks the authorities in this city have been offering a bounty of 4 cents silver (\$0.01½ U. S. currency) per pound for the young insects, and an average of 3,000 pounds are brought in daily and destroyed. The same tactics are being tried in other districts, and the amount of larvæ destroyed is almost incredible, yet the crops in some sections are total failures.

While from the preceding figures it would appear that the corn crop of the present year will be sufficient for the actual needs of the country, it is the opinion of this consulate that not less than 100,000 bushels of corn and 2,000 tons of flour will be imported from the United States during the next 12 months. As an indication, the fresh corn is now selling in this market for \$2.50 United States currency per bushel which in normal years at this season would be selling for \$0.75 per bushel.

In addition to the names of corn and flour importers heretofore submitted I suggest the "Banco de Comercio, Commercial Department," as possible large importers of breadstuffs during the coming year.

MANUFACTURE OF PAPER AND PAPER PULP IN INDO-CHINA.

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, Aug. 12.]

With the industrial development of Tonkin during the past few years, two mills have been established for the manufacture into paper or paper pulp of the abundant supply of suitable wood growing along the banks of the Rouge River and its tributaries.

The Société des Pulpes et Papeteries du Tonkin has its main office at Haiphong, but its mills are located at Vietri at the junction of the Rouge and Claire Rivers. This company was organized in 1910 with a capital stock of 660,000 piasters (a little more than \$300,000). Its machinery was imported in 1911 from the United States and Europe, and the factory began to operate in April, 1912. So far this factory has not attempted the manufacture of paper, but has been engaged in the manufacture of pulp from bamboo. Its capacity is said to be 3,000 to 4,000 tons per year.

War Results in Closing of Mill.

During 1912 the company exported 5 tons of paper pulp to France and 14 tons to Hongkong. The exports to France were largely experimental, and the French manufacturers were well pleased with the product. During the next year 210 tons of pulp were sent to France and 69 tons to foreign countries. The pulp is said to have been very satisfactory and to have sold in the London market for as much as £13 per metric ton (\$63.26 per 2,204.6 pounds). During the first three quarters of 1914, 314 tons were exported to France and 22 tons to foreign countries. The outbreak of the war deprived this industry of its French market and high freight rates have closed other European markets to it. Consequently, the mill closed in September and has not since reopened. The subsequent rise in the price of caustic soda has made it impossible to manufacture pulp for less than 110 piastres (a little more than \$50) per metric ton f. o. b. Haiphong. The company is ready to resume operations if it can secure an order for 1,500 tons at this price.

Paper-Manufacturing Company Finds Ready Market.

The Société Anonyme de Papeteries de l'Indochine was organized in 1913 with a capital stock of 1,500,000 francs (about \$300,000). Its headquarters are at Grenoble, France. Its plant, located at Dap-Cau, near Hanoi, was constructed during 1914 and began operations during the latter part of that year. This plant manufactures paper out of various woods and plants, using only a small proportion of bamboo. The company has had no trouble finding a local market for its product.

FLOOR COVERINGS IN USE IN BRAZILIAN HOMES.

In connection with the article on floor coverings in use in Brazilian homes that was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 28, 1915, Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, of Rio de Janeiro, has forwarded a set of samples of carpet material and tapestry showing the types and styles of these products most in demand in that Brazilian metropolis. These samples may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its branch offices. Inquire for file No. 65430.

TRADE OF SWATOW DURING SECOND QUARTER.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Aug. 7.]

The trade of Swatow for the second quarter of 1915 shows an improvement over that of the corresponding quarter last year. American flour has disappeared from the market, but American kerosene still holds its commanding position. The tonnage of British shipping increased, as compared with 1914, though the number of vessels fell off. Japanese shipping decreased in both respects. Dutch and Norwegian shipping figures were augmented, these countries having apparently picked up much of the shipping lost by certain of the belligerent nations. Tonnage is still scarce and freight rates high.

Imports of cotton cloth, except T cloths and Japanese cotton cloth, show heavy declines. The decline in Chinese cotton cloth indicates that the desire to encourage native industry has not as yet created any large demand in this line. Woolen goods show a general falling off. The metal trade was dull.

Most of the articles usually exported registered a decrease. This fact is attributed to a lack of buying power among Chinese residents in the South Seas, to whom most of Swatow's exports are sent. Eggs, fans, garlic, nankeens, oranges, brown sugar, and vegetables share in this decline. The war in Europe has affected very seriously the Swatow grass-cloth industry. Increased amounts of cotton clothing, pottery, white sugar, and green and black teas were exported.

AUTOMOBILE ACTIVITY IN MANITOBA.

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, Canada, Sept. 20.]

Manitoba is receiving upward of \$100,000 this year from the motor business. Licenses have already been issued for 8,600 automobiles and probably 500 more applications will be filed. The straight license fee of \$10 would make a total of about \$90,000. In addition, licenses have been granted to 1,144 chauffeurs at \$5, making a total of \$5,720, a falling off of about 400 from the number granted in 1914, indicating the tendency of auto owners to handle their own cars. Owners of 888 motorcycles have been licensed at \$2 apiece, aggregating \$1,676. These figures are significant, indicating Winnipeg's prosperity during a year of recognized financial depression. For instance, there was a total of 7,000 automobile licenses granted in the Province last year, showing that fully 2,000 cars have been purchased by residents during 1915, an increase of about one-third of those previously owned. The jitney business is supposed to be responsible for this increase. There has been but a slight increase in the number of motorcycle licenses granted for 1915.

Contract has been awarded to a local firm for a \$200,000 automobile assembling works in Winnipeg for a popular-priced American car. When in operation 200 men will be employed.

China is planning universal education. Its 40,000,000 children within school age will require 400,000 public schools, according to the Minister of Education.

CANADA'S EXPORTS OF CATTLE.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 14.]

The statistics below show the value of exports of live cattle from Canada for the fiscal years named (ended Mar. 31) and where they were sent. The increase noted in 1913 and 1914 to the United States was occasioned by the removal of duty on cattle entering that country.

Fiscal years.	United States.	England.	Other countries.	Total
1900	\$1,401,137	\$7,579,080	\$100,559	\$9,080,776
1901	891,340	8,028,476	144,746	9,064,562
1902	787,864	9,742,738	133,217	10,663,819
1903	292,296	10,842,438	207,906	11,342,632
1904	119,942	10,046,651	258,078	10,424,671
1905	152,084	11,047,167	161,718	11,360,969
1906	206,102	11,045,463	405,264	11,656,829
1907	478,785	10,200,137	253,637	10,932,539
1908	585,790	8,584,806	130,588	9,301,184
1909	543,456	10,115,703	113,117	10,771,366
1910	642,674	9,978,918	169,564	10,792,156
1911	465,079	7,942,144	130,250	8,537,473
1912	615,399	3,343,625	139,155	4,098,179
1913	1,116,923	913,954	298,258	2,327,153
1914	7,043,086	697,807	166,901	7,906,794

Recent figures show that of the live cattle exported for the Canadian customs year ended March 31, 1915, 183,652 head went to the United States and 2,251 to other countries. For the year ended March 31, 1914, the number exported was 219,397, of which 206,446 head went to the United States. For the year ended March 31, 1913, the figures were 44,296, of which 28,268 went to the United States.

NEW CURRANT INDUSTRY FOR UNITED STATES.

A display of 56 species of California grapes was installed during the latter part of September in the California section of the Palace of Horticulture at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco. The grapes came from the Bureau of Plant Industry's experiment vineyard, conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture at Fresno, where over 150 varieties of grapes are grown. That the best varieties of currants can be raised commercially in the Fresno district has also been demonstrated at the Government experiment station vineyard. George C. Husmann, pomologist in charge of viticultural investigations, urges the establishment of a currant industry here to displace the enormous importations (33,000,000 pounds annually), mostly from Greece. It is probable that the growing of currants will be begun in a small way in the Fresno section either this winter or next fall.

Sugar Mills in Three Brazilian States.

Consul A. T. Haeberle, at Pernambuco, Brazil, has transmitted a list of sugar mills in the States of Pernambuco, Parahyba, and Alagoas. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce will loan this to interested persons. Refer to file No. 65419.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **branch offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the **file number** given.

Snap clasps, No. 18571.—An American consular officer in Spain reports a possible market for snap-clasp buttons.

Motorcycle and cycle cars, No. 18572.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in Portugal desires to correspond with exporters of motorcycles and cycle cars. It also wishes to subscribe to a motorcycle review of a technical nature and not one devoted to sports.

Stationery, underwear, drugs, etc., No. 18573.—A letter to the bureau states that an importing company in the Netherlands is interested in stationery supplies, typewriters, underwear, drugs, safety pins, sewing thread, and sewing machines. Full particulars in regard to these articles are requested.

Flour, barbed wire, etc., No. 18574.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in Brazil desires to import flour, barbed wire, cotton seed oil, cement, and press printing paper. The firm desires to represent or act as agent for the various articles mentioned.

Corset materials and machinery, No. 18575.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm in Chile desires to obtain full particulars regarding dry goods, embroidery, ribbons for holding the steels of the corsets, silk ribbons for decorating, elastics for garters, pressers for same, eyelets, and all other articles that enter into the manufacture of corsets, and corset machinery. Catalogues of corset machinery are solicited.

Agricultural machinery, No. 18576.—A letter to the Bureau from a business man in Spain states that he is desirous of purchasing agricultural machinery, especially reapers.

Glue, No. 18577.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and price lists of glue. Quotations are desired c. i. f. Rangoon. The firm states that it can supply references.

Machinery, No. 18578.—A report from an American consular officer in France states that a commission house desires to be placed in direct communication with manufacturers of machines for winding sewing thread on card-board. Correspondence should be in French.

Buttons, No. 18579.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm of manufacturing clothiers wishes to purchase plain and fancy buttons in quantities of 10 and 50 gross for women's costumes, coats, and robes. Samples and quotations c. i. f. Liverpool or Bradford are requested.

Catalogues, etc., No. 18580.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that the consulate needs catalogues and price lists of all kinds. No particular line is mentioned, but in order to keep the file complete manufacturers are requested to forward catalogues and price lists of all kinds.

Sewing machines, No. 18581.—A firm in France informs an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers of sewing machines. Correspondence may be in English.

Asbestos, No. 18582.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a man in his district states that he is authorized to sell or lease a valuable deposit of asbestos.

Phonographs, medicines, etc., No. 18583.—A report from an American consular officer on the east coast of Africa states that a wholesale merchant desires to receive catalogues on phonographs and accessories, patent medicines, spectacles, and toilet requisites. All articles are to be of a cheap grade. Prices and discounts should be given in each case. Correspondence may be in English.

Wearing apparel, No. 18584.—A commission merchant in Chile desires to communicate with American manufacturers of women's and children's wearing apparel. Catalogues, price lists, and discounts are solicited. Reference given. Correspondence may be in English, but Spanish is preferred.

- Machinery**, No. 18585.—An American consular officer in New Zealand reports that a business man in his district wishes to receive catalogues, price lists, and full particulars regarding machinery for stamping leather in imitation of crocodile, and pigskin, etc., for the manufacture of purses and handbags.
- Cotton cloth, hardware, etc.**, No. 18586.—A letter to the Bureau states that a commission agent in one of the Spanish possessions is interested in representing American exporters of cotton cloth, hardware, nails, food products, flour, and tobacco. References given.
- Paper towels, etc.**, No. 18587.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district requests price lists and full particulars in regard to paper towels and toilet paper. Quotations c. i. f. Rangoon.
- Shower-bath attachments**, No. 18588.—A report from an American consular officer in Canada states that there is a scarcity of shower-bath attachments of the kind provided with collar spray, which fits about the neck. American manufacturers of collar-spray attachments should investigate this opportunity.
- Agricultural machinery**, No. 18589.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to get in touch with manufacturers of agricultural machinery and implements.
- Wearing apparel, etc.**, No. 18590.—A business man in France desires to represent American exporters or manufacturers of draperies, toys, socks, shoes, and other clothing for children. Reference furnished. Correspondence may be in French or English.
- Nickel-plated ware**, No. 18591.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a business man desires to represent or act as a manufacturer's agent for nickel-plated ware, such as tea services, coffee pots, percolators, fancy ware and novelties. Catalogues, samples, and price lists are requested.
- Cutlery**, No. 18592.—A firm in India has requested an American consular officer to place it in touch with American manufacturers of cutlery.
- Agate, cornaline, and aquamarine**, No. 18593.—A report from an American consular officer in Switzerland states that a firm in his district is in the market for agate, cornelian, and aquamarine to be used in the manufacture of clocks and watches. Correspondence may be in English.
- Chemicals, drugs, etc.**, No. 18594.—A report from an American consular officer states that a business man in Greece wishes to purchase chemicals, drugs, and leather.
- Soap, furniture, etc.**, No. 18595.—A wholesale merchant on the east coast of Africa informs an American consul that he wishes to receive catalogues on chairs, of the cheaper grade; laundry soap; paints; and oils for paints and varnishes. Prices and discounts should be given. Correspondence may be in English.
- Wagon and carriage parts**, No. 18596.—A letter to the Bureau from a commercial agent states that a dealer of hardware and machine-shop supplies in Argentina desires to correspond with American manufacturers of axles, and all the various parts for the assembling of sulky rods, wagons, and carriages, etc. All information, including prices, terms, etc., should be given in Spanish.
- Enameled and aluminum ware**, No. 18597.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commercial agent stating that a representative of a Russian firm is interested in getting in touch with American manufacturers of enameled and aluminum ware. The firm is anxious to act as exclusive agent for these goods.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 408 United States Customhouse; Boston, 753 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 408 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1090 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce.

SHIPPING FACILITIES BETWEEN JAPAN AND AMERICA.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Aug. 20.]

There is at present a considerable quantity of cargo here for shipment that is being held up by reason of a scarcity of bottoms. It is expected that the departure of certain vessels not regularly engaged in the trans-Pacific carrying trade may considerably relieve the existing situation. In the event of the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. from the trans-Pacific carrying trade, however, a discouraging shortage of vessels available for freight traffic would at once ensue.

It is stated that the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. will discontinue the trans-Pacific trade, beginning in October, 1915, transferring its vessels to another company for use on the Atlantic. The shortage of carriers caused by this step will be detrimental to existing trade relations between Japan and China, particularly to the cotton trade, 40 per cent of the freightage thereon having been in the hands of the Pacific Mail. Unless other vessels quickly take the place of the freighters of that line, business conditions as affecting Japan and the United States will be decidedly unsettled.

There is now only one steamer belonging to the Great Northern Steamship Co.—the *Minnesota*—on the Pacific carrying the American flag. The *Minnesota*, it is understood, is under long charter to the Russian Government and will not be available, for the period of the war at least, for carrying private cargoes.

Under existing conditions it would appear that any American ships finding their way to Oriental ports after the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail boats from the trans-Pacific service, beginning October 10, 1915, can be assured of full cargoes on the homeward voyage.

It is reported that the Japanese steamship companies, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, are now making every effort to obtain vessels with which to enter the field that will thus be left vacant.

[A report by Consul General Anderson at Hongkong, China, covering in some detail the various elements in the Far Eastern freight situation, was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 20.]

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

An American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil, with 22 charter members, has been organized at Rio de Janeiro. As stated in the preliminary draft of its by-laws, the objects of the chamber are "to further the development of commerce between the United States of America and Brazil; to collect information and to examine questions pertaining to their commercial and industrial relations; to encourage and facilitate the transaction of business between them; and especially to promote American interests in Brazil."

All American citizens, firms, and corporations interested in the objects of the chamber are eligible for admission to the new body, and the list of members already includes some of the most important industrial corporations of the United States.

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SHORT-PAID POSTAGE ON FOREIGN MAIL.

Announcement was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 5, 1915, that the Post Office Department had issued instructions to the postmasters of the United States to make special efforts to abate the evil of short-paid postage on letters going abroad. Inquiry by the Secretary of Commerce as to the effectiveness of this effort elicits the following reply, dated September 30, from the Postmaster General, Mr. A. S. Burleson:

With reference to your letter of August 23, 1915, relative to short-paid postage on mail for foreign countries I am pleased to inform you that this department's instructions to postmasters to hold such matter whenever practicable and request the senders to supply the deficient postage is producing satisfactory results. Reports received indicate that the more important post offices are carrying out the instructions effectively, and that, as a rule, the senders of short-paid mail are grateful for the opportunity given them to prepay fully the postage and thereby relieve the addressees of any postage charges when the mail is delivered to them. Continued compliance with instructions on the part of postmasters can not but result in a continued lessening of the short-paid postage evil.

GREAT FRUIT CROPS IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahlin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 16.]

The present crops of pears and apples in this district are the largest in years. The orchards are a remarkable spectacle. It is a literal fact that pears and apples grow on the trees nearly as thickly as currants on their bushes. It would seem that practically every spring blossom has developed into a pear or an apple. The limbs of the trees would break down under their heavy burdens if they were not supported by forked poles.

Growers are selling these fruits at less than an American cent a pound.

However, there are pessimists who say that fruit in such abundance will not be good keepers.

IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE FOR ONE WEEK.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending October 2, 1915, at 13 principal customs districts of the United States follow:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah)	\$84, 725	\$21	\$3, 916, 874
Massachusetts (Boston)	1, 901, 733	142, 517	2, 514, 565
New York	23, 102, 188	2, 714, 483	36, 118, 357
Philadelphia	1, 086, 425	292, 436	1, 378, 318
Maryland (Baltimore)	486, 752	17, 001	2, 671, 486
Virginia (Norfolk)	36, 323	2, 569	1, 829, 199
New Orleans	671, 750	17, 178	3, 895, 073
Galveston	40, 583	8, 885	7, 543, 913
San Francisco	876, 755	61, 551	2, 201, 579
Washington (Seattle)	1, 890, 458	31, 820	833, 089
Buffalo	932, 594	15, 205	1, 164, 624
Chicago	507, 522	112, 080	101, 588
Michigan (Detroit)	672, 001	18, 229	3, 680, 882
Total	32, 279, 809	3, 428, 965	67, 749, 531

The above figures show a favorable balance on merchandise transactions for the week ending October 2 in the 13 customs districts of \$35,469,722. The 13 districts cited handled about 91 per cent of the import and export business of the country, based on the transactions in July, 1915.

Cotton exported during the week ending October 2 amounted to 217,914 bales, making the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 655,119 bales.

BRITISH LINE TO START NEW PACIFIC SERVICE.

[Extract from Daily Journal of Commerce, San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 24, by Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt.]

Closely following the announcement that the Java-China-Japan line will enter the trade between San Francisco, China, and the Philippines comes the report from Andrew Weir & Co., in London, that the Bank Line also will enter this service.

The British company operating this line controls more than 40 vessels, a number of which are now plying between New York, China, Japan, and the Straits Settlements. Some of the steamers from New York to Japan are using the Panama Canal, while those going to other parts of the Orient are routed via the Suez Canal.

According to a cable from London to E. C. Evans & Son, local agents of the Weir Line, the steamer *Inveric*, a vessel of 4,800 tons, will be the first to arrive here in connection with the new service. It will commence loading at Hongkong for the Golden Gate about the 1st of November.

Although the details of the new service have not as yet been worked out fully, it is expected that the announcement of other sailings will be made before the *Inveric* reaches this port.

It is believed that many steamship companies that intended to enter the Pacific trade but were prevented from doing so by the European war will before long commence sending vessels to the Golden Gate. The Foreign Trade Department of the Chamber of Commerce is attempting to induce a number of big steamship companies to establish schedules which will include San Francisco.

SCOPE OF SECTION 14, SEAMEN'S ACT.

The United States Steamboat-Inspection Service has published the following information in regard to dates of effect of section 14 of the act of Congress approved March 4, 1915, entitled "Seamen's act," for various classes of domestic and foreign steam vessels, which information is contained in Department Circular No. 266, dated September 24, 1915, which reads as follows:

September 24, 1915.

To chief officers of customs, supervising and local inspectors, Steamboat-Inspection Service, and others concerned:

The following statement of the scope of application of section 14 of the seamen's act of March 4, 1915, based on the opinion of the Attorney General dated August 25, 1915, and opinions of the Solicitor of the Department of Commerce dated September 3 and September 4, 1915, is issued for your guidance:

1. Section 14 of the act will apply on and after November 4, 1915, to steam vessels of the United States referred to in the act, except such steam vessels admitted to American registry under the ship-registry act of August 18, 1914.

2. Section 14 will apply, on and after September 4, 1916, to steam vessels of the United States admitted to American registry under the ship-registry act of August 18, 1914.

3. Section 14 will not apply at any time to—

(a) Foreign steamers not carrying passengers to or from the United States.

(b) Foreign steamers carrying passengers to the United States.

4. Section 14 will apply on and after March 4, 1916, to foreign steamers carrying passengers from the United States under the flags of those countries whose inspection laws do not approximate those of the United States, unless in the meantime those countries adopt inspection laws approximating those of the United States, and accord reciprocal privileges to vessels of the United States in their ports.

5. Section 14 will not apply to foreign steamers carrying passengers from the United States under the flags of those countries whose inspection laws approximate those of the United States and that have entered into reciprocal relations with the United States. The countries which have such approximate laws and which have entered into such relations are Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, New South Wales, New Zealand, Japan, the Netherlands, and Norway.

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,
Secretary of Commerce.

THE ENGLISH HOP CROP.

[Consul Samuel M. Taylor, Birmingham, Sept. 16.]

With reference to the English hop crop it is stated that in many of the gardens in the counties of Worcester, Hereford, Surrey, Hampshire, Kent, and Sussex the blight has mastered the plant, and many of these gardens will not have a hop picked in them, while others of these badly blighted gardens may secure a few hundredweights to the acre. The low temperature and absence of rain which prevailed during June and the first half of July retarded the growth of the plant and is accountable for the shortness of bine in most gardens. The rains which commenced in the middle of July materially assisted those gardens that had been thoroughly washed, and by the middle of August the aphid blight had run its course, so the cones are perfectly clean and free from all disease, and having been produced on a slight bine have had the advantage of exposure to the sun, which has put condition into them. It can be safely said that the crop will not exceed half of that of last year, perhaps some 250,000 to 260,000 hundredweights (28,000,000 to 29,120,000 pounds).

STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND ARCHANGEL.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Russia, Sept. 10.]

The Russian-American Line between New York and Archangel has given notice that it will continue its present direct service of steamers, one every 11 days, between these two ports until the end of January. It is stated, however, that as these steamers can not leave Archangel during the winter months in ballast, as they have been doing lately, it will be necessary to arrange export of goods from Russia to America on these steamers, up to about 1,500 tons per sailing, which would stiffen the vessels for their run across the Atlantic.

It is hoped that the practical lifting of the embargo on the exportation of many classes of goods, such as skins, now in great demand in the United States, through the arrangement¹ whereby such goods can be consigned to the Secretary of Commerce under guarantees that they will not be reexported in any form, will release for export to the United States a great quantity of goods purchased before the outbreak of the war but detained here because of the embargo. The immediate exportation of these goods, as well as furs and skins purchased at the present fair at Nizhni Novgorod and certain other classes of goods that have been on the embargo list, may assist the Russian-American Line to maintain its sailings during the winter up to the end of January. After this time it is planned to have a service with Kola in northern Lapland until May, when Archangel will again be free of ice.

The steamers of the Russian-American Line between New York and Archangel include the *Kursk*, *Czaritza*, *Czar*, and *Dvinsk*, which make the trip between New York and Archangel in about two weeks. They pursue a short northerly course, which takes them between Iceland and Greenland. During the summer this line erected large warehouses at Archangel, sufficient to store temporarily all the goods arriving or departing by its ships.

PHILIPPINE CEMENT PLANT IN OPERATION.

[From the Philippine Free Press.]

Information has been received from Manila that the first shipment of cement from the plant of the Rizal Cement Company, at Binangonan, Province of Rizal, has been received by a local firm. The works have been under construction for some time, but were completed only a few weeks ago. They have a capacity of 500 barrels a day. Tests of the product, both here and abroad, have been very satisfactory, proving it equal to the best imported cement. Some account of the plant, before its actual erection, was published in the Daily Consular and Trade Reports for September 27, 1912.

¹ To secure such shipments, it is necessary (1) to file application for approval of their release with the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; (2) to guarantee that no part of such shipments will be exported from the United States; (3) to file a bond with the Imperial Russian Government covering the entire value of the shipment, such a bond to run for three years or until peace shall have been declared with all belligerents. Forms of application may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.

ARGENTINE NATIONAL BUDGET PREPARED.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Aug. 13.]

The estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the Government of Argentina for 1916, as submitted in an executive message to Congress, gives as the amount to be expended for all purposes \$144,876,786 in cash (in terms of United States currency) and \$849,200 in bonds and obligations. The figures for the revenue given in the estimate show that more than one-third of the amount is expected to be derived from the receipts of the customhouses, while the inland taxation has been increased by new taxes on wine, sugar, and beer.

The public debt will be considerably augmented by the issuing of bonds to cover the cost of public works. It is proposed that \$10,251,470 shall be applied to this work, the amount being part of a bond issue of \$29,722,000. The remaining part of the proceeds will be used for continuing the National Sanitary Works and for other purposes. The Executive is to be authorized to obtain loans for short periods on account of the future proceeds of the bonds.

The preamble accompanying the budget compares it with those of previous years, showing that a reduction from the figures for 1914 is made, both in administration and in public works, while cuts are made in salaries of Government employees of 5 or 10 per cent, according to the amount of the salary received.

The expenditure of the current year was fixed by the budget now in force at \$161,908,788, so that an economy is intended to be effected next year to the amount of about \$17,000,000, of which about \$10,000,000 has resulted from the pruning of all administrative annexes except those of Congress and the public debt.

The public debt has increased by \$941,092.

Ordinary Expenses of Administration.

The estimates of the ordinary expenses of administration are fixed in the budget at \$126,284,065, the amounts according to the several classes of expenditure being: Congress, \$1,915,860; interior, \$19,233,538; foreign affairs and cultio, \$1,734,672; finance, \$6,927,156; public debt, \$37,678,184; justice and education, \$24,568,754; war, \$10,642,444; marine, \$9,004,542; Agriculture, \$4,600,457; public works, \$2,977,434; pensions, \$5,514,924; resguardos, \$959,019; sub-prefectures, \$527,081.

The expenses of public works are fixed at \$13,391,143 in cash in addition to bonds and obligations, distributed among the following departments: Interior, \$596,363; foreign affairs and cultio, \$219,433; finance, \$63,690; justice and education, \$435,215; marine, \$74,305; agriculture, \$473,429; public works, \$11,528,707.

In addition to the amounts mentioned under these classifications, the expenses of subsidies and beneficence are fixed at \$5,201,578. (Previous reports on the Argentine budget were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for April 7 and April 14, 1915.)

[A copy in Spanish of the full text of the budget for 1916, as submitted to Congress, will be loaned on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 65946.]

Rock salt is produced by deep shaft mining in eastern United States; the annual output is 1,000,000 tons, valued at \$2 per ton.

ENGLAND'S NEW BUDGET ESTIMATES.

Great Britain's new budget, as drawn up by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, indicates an increased income of £32,904,000 (\$160,127,300) from the new or augmented taxes and duties which the document proposes. The expenditure in the fiscal 12 months ending March 31, 1916, is estimated at £1,590,000,000 (\$7,737,735,000); the year's revenue on the basis of existing taxes is placed at £272,110,000 (\$1,324,223,300). With the additional amounts anticipated from collections during the rest of the year, there remains a deficit of £1,284,986,000 (\$6,253,384,400).

Certain of the new imposts were set forth in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 27; others are indicated in the following summary of estimated receipts, in which the values have been converted to American dollars at the rate of \$4.8665 to the pound sterling:

New sources of revenue.	Full year's yield.	Yield this year.
NEW TAXES AND ADDITIONS.		
Income tax (raised 40 per cent per annum).....	\$216,072,600	\$54,864,825
Supertax (new scale).....	13,086,550	10,462,975
War profits (50 per cent).....	145,995,000	26,106,000
Sugar (raised from 44.6 cents to \$2.271 per hundredweight ^a).....	56,938,050	26,084,425
Tobacco.....	24,819,160	(b)
Tea (50 per cent added, raising the rate from 16.3 cents to 24.3 cents per pound).....	21,899,250	(b)
Cocoa, coffee and chicory (50 per cent added to 2 cents per pound, \$3.407 per hundredweight, and \$3.224 per hundredweight, respectively).....	1,411,275	(b)
Dried fruits (50 per cent added).....	878,975	(b)
Motor spirit (6.1 cents per gallon added to present rates of 6.1 cents and 3 cents).....	5,353,180	2,676,575
Patent medicines (doubled).....	1,216,625	(b)
NEW IMPORT DUTIES.		
Motor cars and cycles (33½ per cent ad valorem).....	5,508,475	(b)
Kinema films (33½ per cent ad valorem).....	1,946,600	(b)
Clocks and watches, musical instruments, plate glass, and hats (33½ per cent ad valorem).....	1,946,600	(b)
Total new taxation.....	497,137,300	160,127,300
Postal, telegraph and telephone charges: Higher rates for heavy letters and for parcels, press and other telegrams, postal orders, and telephones (with a saving of \$997,635 in expenditure).....	24,210,840	9,635,670

^a British hundredweight—112 pounds.

^b Not stated, but included in the total as \$36,839,400 for all.

Since the presentation of the budget to Parliament on September 21 there has been much discussion of the new levies and certain modifications will doubtless be made before the final passage of the law. Among the changes so far proposed are the exemption of motor trucks and plate glass from the 33½ per cent import duty.

British merchants are already shaping their businesses to the new times. Manchester tobacconists have decided to increase the retail prices of all cigarettes by 2 cents per packet of 10, by 4 cents per packet of 20, and by 4 cents per ounce when the cigarettes are sold by weight; and to raise the price of all tobaccos by 4 cents per ounce and, in regard to imported cut tobaccos, by 5 cents per ounce. Liquor dealers are not affected, as neither spirits nor beers are subjected to heavier taxation. The proposal to increase the duty on coffee, tea, cocoa, and sugar has had the result in some centers of almost cleaning out the local grocers' supplies of these commodities, as housewives made haste to lay in stocks in anticipation of advanced prices.

Cinematograph managers are facing a general increase in the price of new films, to offset which there may be a slight advance in admission charges. The abolition of the halfpenny (1-cent) post, which is one of the changes proposed under the postal department, will especially affect those large British commercial houses that send out thousands of invoices and statements monthly.

SEEK UNIFORMITY IN SOAP SPECIFICATIONS.

The question of reducing the number of specifications for soaps purchased by the United States Government and adopting a few definite specifications that will cover products in common use throughout the country was considered recently at a conference of representatives from a number of departmental and independent bureaus and offices. The matter had been taken up by the Bureau of Standards, to meet the objection that has been made by certain manufacturers to the effect that some of the Government specifications do not conform to commercial brands, and hence necessitate special preparation, with consequent higher cost.

A full discussion that took place at this conference brought out the fact that the consensus of opinion among those assembled was that it was desirable to secure greater uniformity in the purchases by different departments and offices and to reduce the number of kinds called for to a few simple types. One or two committees were organized to secure and assemble data for use as a basis for future recommendations.

The importance of such recommendations may be realized by observing the figures which represent the magnitude and rapidity of growth of the soap industry in the United States. In 1909 the value of the products of the soap manufactories of the country was \$111,357,777, while in 1904 the value of the products was \$68,274,700. Previous to that year the statistics had been collected for the soap and candle industries combined, the amount in 1899 being \$53,231,017.

SPANISH MONEY BARRED IN CUBA.

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul at Habana; dated Sept. 15.]

On August 12, 1915, the Chief Executive of Cuba issued a decree prohibiting the importation of all foreign moneys of silver or copper, with the exception of that of the United States. On September 12, 1915, this important decree was followed by another prohibiting the circulation in Cuba of Spanish silver and copper money after December 1, next, and also barring the importation and circulation of centenes and louis, Spanish and French gold coins.

The importance of this decree may be more clearly understood when it is explained that, according to the best estimates obtainable, there is at present in circulation in Cuba approximately \$30,000,000 in Spanish and French gold and \$5,000,000 in Spanish silver. In fact, in the country districts of western Cuba this money is at present used almost to the exclusion of the American and Cuban currency. However, in eastern Cuba American money has been used exclusively since the American occupation in 1898-99.

RUBBER GROWING IN ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Aug. 24.]

The rubber tree, *Castilloa elastica*, has added considerably to Ecuador's wealth. It grows wild in the tropical parts of the Republic, at an altitude of 500 feet above sea level, resembling in general appearance some species of eucalyptus. The fruit usually ripens in February, presenting a flattened appearance, 1 to 2 inches broad. The seeds, about the size of a small pea, contain 18 per cent of oil and a crystallized bitter substance. The pulp is eaten by parrots, monkeys, and other animals. Exposed to the air, the seeds rapidly desiccate, losing 25 per cent of their weight in three days. A longer exposure reduces their weight by one-half, which leaves them without germinating power, as it is very rare for development to occur from seeds thus reduced.

Rubber plantations have been formed in the Balzar and Tenguel districts and in Manabi and Esmeraldas, with more than a million trees. A law was passed in 1904 providing a bounty of 5 cents for each rubber tree that should be planted and pass the age of 5 years. Thus far but one plantation, with more than 300,000 trees, has attempted to profit by this provision, as yet without results.

In Ecuador it has been found profitable that "bleeding" should begin with the seventh year of growth, for at that age the tree is in full vigor, when from four or five cuts a tree will yield 2 pounds of rubber and produce indefinitely.

Better Prices Awaited for Marketing Product.

For many years Ecuador has annually exported rubber, formerly in considerable quantities and at high prices. At one time \$72 for each 100 pounds was realized, while the present prices are \$23.91 and the quantity but 16 tons. Most of this went to the United States. The decrease in price has reacted on the production, so that at present very little effort is made to gather it. With a return of better prices new interest will be awakened, eventuating in more rubber plantations here.

Several other plants growing in Ecuador yield rubber, the names of but few being obtainable, as little attention is devoted to the question of new sources. One, an enormous climbing plant called "matapalo" (*Ficus dendrocida*), winds around any of the forest trees, and as it develops into a great octopuslike vine, a foot or more thick, the enveloped tree is smothered and dies, leaving the gigantic climber standing in its place. The climbing giant yields rubber, and there is a plentiful supply.

There are also many small shrubs of the genera *Apocynum* and *Brosimum*, yielding a milky juice which coagulates into a gum with the qualities of rubber.

RATE OF EXCHANGE RESTRICTS CHINESE PURCHASES.

[Consul General Fred D. Fisher, Tientsin, Aug. 16.]

The rate of exchange between local currency and gold is so unfavorable that the local import trade is nearly at a standstill. The chief openings for American imports must for the present lie in substitutes for articles which are in large demand and can not now be had from former sources of supply, such articles as dyestuffs, window glass, and needles.

CANADIAN LAND PATENTS AND HOMESTEAD ENTRIES.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Sept. 4.]

During the first six months of 1915 there were issued in the four Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory 11,172 land patents, including homesteads, mineral, railway, and other lands, amounting in the aggregate to 1,824,381 acres, as compared with 17,492 patents, amounting to 2,878,811 acres, issued during a similar period of the previous year, a decrease of 6,320 patents and 1,054,431 acres.

During the same period the homestead entries for 1915 amounted to 8,243, as compared with 13,240 for the previous year, a decrease of 4,997. The following table forms a comparative list of the entries by Provinces:

Provinces.	1914	1915
Manitoba	1,695	1,933
Saskatchewan	5,301	2,783
Alberta	5,840	3,255
British Columbia	404	272
Total	13,240	8,243

The following table gives the nationalities of the homesteaders during the first six months of 1915:

Nationality.	Number.	Nationality.	Number.	Nationality.	Number.
Americans	1,082	British—Continued.		Danes (including Icelanders)	101
Arabians	2	Canadians—Con.		French	59
Austro-Hungarians	1,107	From Quebec	233	Germans	99
Belgians	45	From Saskatchewan	147	Greeks	8
Balkan States	21	Returned from United States	9	Hollanders	19
British:		English	1,062	Italians	75
Canadians—		Hindoo	1	Japanese	2
From Alberta	138	Irish	126	Norwegians	173
From British Columbia	32	Newfoundlanders	5	Russians (including Russian Jews)	355
From Manitoba	535	New Zealanders	1	South Americans	4
From New Brunswick	50	Persons who had previous entry	1,451	Spanish	4
From Nova Scotia	63	Scotch	291	Swedes	154
From Ontario	604	South Africans	1	Swiss	34
From Prince Edward Island	24	Chinese	2	Turks	4
				Total	8,243

NEW TELAUTOGRAPH IN SWEDEN.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Aug. 27.]

A new telautograph or telewriter, an instrument for telegraphic transmission of ordinary handwriting, has just been invented by two Swedish engineers. This new apparatus apparently differs entirely from the fundamental principles of other telautographs. The most characteristic feature of the apparatus seems to be that it can be used independently of the electrical resistance of the line. It can be connected alternately to a long or short line without any adjustment of the resistance, and can consequently be used in connection with the public telephone systems. This apparatus has been in practical use for some time for testing purposes, and its manufacture for commercial exploitation has now been started.

MARKET FOR PHONOGRAPHS IN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Vice Consul Caspar L. Dreier, at Singapore, reports that there is an excellent market in that city for the sale of phonographs. These afford one of the most valued forms of amusements during the long tropical evenings, and their popularity is increased by the comparative absence of the more highly organized kinds of entertainment. Mr. Dreier says that the talking machines possess a fascination not only for European residents, but for the Indians and coolies in their tenement quarters and the dwellers in the jungle huts. They are considered as having marked advantages in the way of education and as furnishing an inspiration toward advancement.

In Singapore, with its mixed cosmopolitan population, brought together from many nations and races, it is found necessary to provide a great variety of records, in diverse languages and appealing to the individual tastes of the purchasers. Mr. Dreier states, for example, that the higher class of Chinese, although they yielded to the attraction of the instrument, did so only when music of their own national type was procurable. European music, however, is often heard in districts surprising to the stranger.

According to this report, the importation of phonographs into the Straits Settlements now amounts to many thousands of dollars each year, the machines varying from the highest class to the older kinds and cheaper makes. Many retail firms in Singapore handle them, and music houses regard them as constituting an important part of their trade.

[The names of three of the principal dealers in phonographs in Singapore may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 64629.]

GOLD AND TRAVELERS' CHECKS IN RUSSIA.

[Consul North Winship, Petrograd, July 15.]

Americans intending to visit Russia should be informed not to bring gold or travelers' checks. Persons bringing gold to Russia are unable to negotiate it at a favorable rate and must nevertheless exchange it, since no gold is permitted to be taken out of the country or to be sent from Russia, except with a special permit from the Minister of Finance.

Travelers' checks show on their face the amount to be received in rubles, which is at the rate of 1.93 for the dollar. The banking institutions in this city refuse to give more than this face value, except in a few instances, notwithstanding the fact that, to-day for instance, the rate of exchange is about 2.72 to 2.75.

It sometimes happens that parties holding these checks can negotiate them at a higher rate, but this depends on the success of the holder in finding a bank or individual in great need of dollars in America. Even so the rate paid is arbitrary.

This difficulty may be evaded through certified checks on New York banks, letters of credit, or the establishment of a credit in a bank here by depositing dollars in America.

It is also well to mention that persons leaving Russia are not allowed to carry more than the value of 500 rubles out of the country without a special permit from the Minister of Finance. This does not include railroad and steamship tickets, which may be purchased here through to New York.

LAND LEASING IN SOUTH MANCHURIA.

[Consul General P. S. Helntzleman, Mukden, China.]

Twenty-two time-expired Japanese soldiers have been accepted by the land department of the South Manchuria Railway Co. as lessees of land for cultivation in the railway area. The lands leased to them are mostly at Tiehling and Kungchuling and are about 1,100 acres in total area, each being allowed 50 acres. The company is pursuing the policy of canceling all leases held by tenants only in name with a view to disposing of them at a profit. The railway company will advance \$150 to each of the above-mentioned lessees.

At the end of July, 1915, the land in the South Manchuria Railway area rented for house lots, cultivation, and other purposes was 12,294 acres to 3,381 tenants. The rents accruing therefrom amounted to \$46,152. In point of the land area under cultivation, Tiehling leads the list, and is followed by Tashihchiao, Wafangtien, Liaoyang, and Kungchuling. The total area of the Japanese railway lands in and out of the Leased Territory is only about 70 square miles, so that these lands do not afford any opportunity for colonization, a very large part being required for strictly railway purposes.

New Treaty Rights—Tax Reforms.

By article 2 of the treaty between Japan and China respecting South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, signed May 25, 1915, Japanese have secured the right to lease land in South Manchuria for erecting buildings for trade and manufacture and for conducting agricultural enterprises. By an exchange of notes annexed to the treaty the two Governments agree that the term "lease" in the treaty shall be understood to imply a lease of not more than 30 years, unconditionally renewable. According to article 5 of the same treaty Japanese leasing land in the interior of South Manchuria are amenable to Chinese police laws and ordinances and must pay Chinese taxes. These laws and ordinances, and also the schedule of taxes, must, however, receive the approval of the Japanese consul before they can be enforced.

At Japanese suggestion the Chinese Government proposes to alter the existing system of taxation in South Manchuria and Eastern Mongolia which is held to be ill adapted to the new conditions created by the recent treaty with Japan and conducive to international complications. Accordingly the civil governor here, under instructions from Peking, has deputed a number of officials throughout those districts to make investigations and propose reforms.

USE OF COKE IN SWEDEN.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Aug. 27.]

The Swedish State Railway management has just purchased in Westphalia, Germany, 20,000 tons of coal briquets and 72,000 tons of coke for use as locomotive fuel. A circular has been issued to all the district railroad managers giving instructions in regard to their use. The coal will be used alone, but a mixture of coke and briquets may be undertaken later, as experiments in Denmark tend to show that such a mixture with English coal is a success. It is stated that in mixing about equal proportions of coke and coal briquets will be used.

AUGUST EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, MEAT PRODUCTS, ETC.

The following table shows the exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils from the principal customs districts of the United States during August and the eight months ended August, 1914 and 1915:

Items.	August—		8 months ended August—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
EXPORTS BY GROUPS.				
Breadstuffs	dollars .. 29,539,131	29,396,900	120,633,277	372,428,994
Cottonseed oil	pounds .. 5,230,097	25,178,445	123,725,103	260,044,692
Cattle, hogs, and sheep	dollars .. 404,296	1,785,092	8,877,044	18,398,046
Meat and dairy products	dollars .. 58,334	516,736	687,507	2,323,399
Cotton	bales .. 8,522,697	16,902,231	80,333,220	172,159,626
Mineral oils	dollars .. 21,210	182,059	3,734,444	6,099,420
.....	pounds .. 10,916,718	83,042,046	1,927,606,811	3,179,962,927
.....	dollars .. 1,306,117	7,625,631	236,401,930	278,776,948
.....	gallons .. 145,763,792	232,224,014	1,493,937,331	1,518,884,770
.....	dollars .. 7,836,791	13,993,873	94,318,958	92,812,571
Total	dollars .. 47,667,366	70,220,463	541,251,936	936,899,584
EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
Corn	bushels .. 487,283	880,161	6,268,385	29,535,797
.....	dollars .. 423,408	764,196	4,740,454	32,203,980
Oats	bushels .. 1,416,999	3,139,124	2,646,061	74,797,860
.....	dollars .. 635,238	1,834,327	1,106,813	45,924,672
Wheat	bushels .. 24,079,966	16,725,134	79,894,059	139,927,275
.....	dollars .. 23,659,680	20,622,233	76,383,469	205,608,267
Flour	bushels .. 701,188	785,175	6,757,005	10,181,901
.....	dollars .. 3,397,955	4,759,852	31,287,128	65,092,842
Beef, canned	pounds .. 2,891,227	3,599,339	4,824,240	59,802,715
.....	dollars .. 750,939	575,442	1,004,057	9,313,675
Beef, fresh	pounds .. 916,491	25,759,992	4,727,909	188,787,794
.....	dollars .. 113,823	3,534,569	590,738	24,430,428
Beef, pickled, etc.	pounds .. 2,203,769	2,325,803	15,839,757	31,041,295
.....	dollars .. 207,898	265,172	1,541,605	3,345,012
Oleo oil	pounds .. 4,429,700	8,503,414	64,286,945	63,786,582
.....	dollars .. 463,117	1,031,000	6,549,520	7,747,223
Bacon	pounds .. 14,170,187	37,430,581	112,333,387	326,163,620
.....	dollars .. 2,033,403	4,738,422	15,235,442	43,280,938
Hams and shoulders	pounds .. 8,719,459	20,463,755	102,149,378	190,206,635
.....	dollars .. 1,364,081	2,758,020	14,675,308	26,403,947
Lard	pounds .. 24,981,695	24,846,929	280,511,877	315,518,440
.....	dollars .. 2,742,370	2,510,040	31,190,872	34,437,924
Neutral lard	pounds .. 1,503,443	1,629,739	17,109,661	21,647,266
.....	dollars .. 177,739	157,284	1,883,272	2,460,022
Pork, pickled, etc.	pounds .. 3,704,797	4,385,036	27,527,111	41,517,068
.....	dollars .. 418,578	454,360	2,993,310	4,417,073
Lard compounds	pounds .. 1,492,641	4,270,243	34,793,780	45,000,230
.....	dollars .. 131,916	348,663	3,232,345	3,845,149
Crude oil	gallons .. 10,591,983	15,119,217	78,140,571	103,016,954
.....	dollars .. 338,398	370,872	3,309,617	2,767,886
Illuminating oil	gallons .. 48,016,931	77,770,001	699,313,087	573,093,058
.....	dollars .. 3,035,783	4,765,287	45,208,284	34,257,675
Lubricating oil	gallons .. 14,298,559	22,715,614	126,009,894	164,282,758
.....	dollars .. 1,736,974	2,936,820	17,022,176	21,446,848
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.	gallons .. 9,249,892	31,697,472	128,492,528	188,921,731
.....	dollars .. 1,075,337	3,535,852	16,540,780	21,240,956
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.	gallons .. 63,606,427	84,921,710	461,981,251	489,570,269
.....	dollars .. 1,650,299	2,335,042	12,229,101	13,099,206

EGYPTIAN COTTON RESTRICTIONS REMOVED.

[Reuter dispatch from Cairo.]

It is stated that the Egyptian Council of Ministers has decided to remove the prohibition by which cultivators are not allowed to devote more than one-third of their property to cotton cultivation.

Farmers of Ontario Province, Canada, are now buying automobiles in large numbers.

LARGE BRITISH SHIPPING PROFITS.

[Manchester Guardian, Sept. 18.]

The week's dividend announcements and reports of shipping companies confirm the impression of a good time in the transport industry, both actual and prospective. "Even when peace was again happily with us," said the chairman of Manchester Liners (Ltd.), at the meeting last week, "profitable rates of freight, although not at present levels, would rule for some considerable period to come." This confidence appears to be general. The directors of the King Line, of London, last week declared an interim dividend of 6 per cent, as against $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent last September. The Cairn Line, a Tyne concern, announce a further dividend of 5 per cent, in addition to the 10 per cent paid in July, which makes 15 per cent already, against a dividend of 10 per cent for the year in previous years. Another Tyne firm, the Sutherland Steamship Co., announce an interim dividend of 20 per cent, as compared with $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent a year ago, the full dividend for each of the two preceding years having been 15 per cent.

Two annual reports published to-day show a similarly healthy and promising condition of affairs. The accounts of Rowland & Marwood's Steamship Co., of Whitby, showed an available sum on July 31 of \$615,665, as compared with \$503,701 for the previous good year. The dividend of \$6 per \$30 share is maintained, there are substantial appropriations of \$122,000 for depreciation, \$73,000 to reserve (reclassification and upkeep), and \$50,000 to income-tax reserve, and over \$250,000 is carried forward.

Ireland also claims a share of shipping prosperity. The year's profits of the Dublin firm of Thomas Heiton & Co. stand at \$117,884, including a carry-forward of \$28,290; the ordinary shareholders now for the first time (5 per cent having been the previous high-water mark) receive 10 per cent for the year. The company is also able to write \$26,765 off plant, premises, etc., to set aside \$5,000 for depreciation of investments, and to place \$5,000 to insurance reserve account, besides carrying \$27,301 to the new account. These returns are interesting as showing that the buoyancy in shipping is not confined to the larger concerns, of the prosperity of which the active bidding for their shares has been sufficient indication recently.

THIRD-CLASS PULLMANS IN ENGLAND.

English railway travelers were provided with an innovation on September 12, when Pullman cars for third-class passengers were inaugurated between London and Brighton and Eastbourne. Externally the cars resemble first-class Pullmans on the Brighton line, but are less luxuriously finished. Each car is 60 feet long over buffers, holds 56 persons, and the seats are arranged in pairs on either side of a central passage, each being arranged to tip up. A kitchen enables meals to be served. Each car has a glass-fronted cupboard containing tools for use in emergency, together with hand grenades and first-aid equipment. An extra 18 cents is charged for each seat occupied in addition to the third-class fare. Apparently this new English "Pullman" is similar to a type that has been used on American railways for a number of years.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Hardware, jewelry, etc., No. 18598.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in the Netherlands desires trade journals devoted to hardware, knives, corkscrews, enameled articles, cheap jewelry, belts, purses, children's caps, socks, and stationery.

Paper, No. 18599.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm in France desires quotations on sulphurated, muslin, and grease-proof paper. Samples of the paper desired accompany the letter and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68.)

Cotton duck, cordage, etc., No. 18600.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a business man in his district desires to correspond with manufacturers and exporters of cotton duck, cordage, paints, and light hardware, with a view to handling these goods on a commission basis.

Enameled ware, No. 18601.—A report from an American consular officer states that a firm in Africa desires to communicate with manufacturers of enameled ware, including pots, pans, kettles, plates, and cups. Samples are requested, and may be sent care of the American consulate. Prices f. o. b. New York are necessary, and quotations c. i. f. Port Elizabeth are a decided advantage.

Chemical products, patent medicines, etc., No. 18602.—A company in Italy informs an American consular officer that it desires to purchase chemical products, patent medicines, sanitary articles, and household novelties. Payment to be 30 days or c. o. d. American Express Co., Naples or Rome. References given.

Cotton goods, haberdashery, etc., No. 18603.—A firm in Persia informs an American consular officer that it desires to establish commercial relations with American dealers in cotton goods, haberdashery, and shoes. Prices, samples, and catalogues should be sent at once. Correspondence may be in French or German.

Sheet glass, No. 18604.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district is in the market for sheet glass.

Machinery, No. 18605.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a manufacturer's agent is desirous of communicating with manufacturers of machinery for making butter containers.

Enameled bathtubs, No. 18606.—A firm of importers in Spain informs an American consular officer that it desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of enameled bathtubs. Catalogues and price lists of cast-iron tubs lined with porcelain, as well as steel tubs enameled both outside and inside, are requested, together with full information. Quotations should be f. o. b. port of shipment or c. i. f. port of destination. Correspondence, if possible, should be in Spanish.

Ferrotypic photographic supplies, No. 18607.—A report from an American consular officer in Australia states that a firm in his district desires to communicate with firms on the Pacific coast willing to export stocks of ferrotypic photographic supplies.

Toys, etc., No. 18608.—A business man in the United Kingdom has written an American consul for names of manufacturers of clockwork toys of any description and sensational joke novelties. Samples and prices, stating the very latest date on which they can receive orders to enable them to have the goods by the end of November, are requested.

Hoists, blocks, and trolleys, No. 18609.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues, price lists, and full information regarding hoists, blocks, and trolleys, with a view to securing an exclusive agency. Quotations should be c. i. f. Rangoon.

Wearing apparel, No. 18610.—A report from an American consular officer in Spain states that there is a possible market in Egypt for women's hosiery and underwear.

Copper, nickel, etc., No. 18611.—A report from an American consular officer in Portugal states that a firm in his district desires to purchase cupro-nickel copper, brass copper, antimony, artificial leather in sheets, and washed cotton waste. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Tarpaulin, No. 18612.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a business man in his district desires to purchase tarpaulin for use in covering lighters carrying merchandise to and from boats, as well as for other purposes. Prices, samples, and full information are requested. Ninety days' credit is desired, but cash will be paid against documents in foreign port, if necessary. A sample of the tarpaulin may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 66559.)

Snuff, No. 18613.—A firm in the Far East informs an American consular officer that it desires to be furnished with names of manufacturers of snuff.

Hats, No. 18614.—An American consular officer reports that a business man in France wishes to represent manufacturers or exporters of soft felt hats. He desires an exclusive agency for all of France. Reference furnished.

Cycle-car parts, No. 18615.—A firm in Spain is desirous of manufacturing cycle cars, and it wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of cone clutches, gear cases, live and rear axles, and other parts. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Gas engines, No. 18616.—An American consul in China reports that a man wishes to receive catalogues, price lists with discounts, and full information in regard to horizontal engines of from 25 to 100 horsepower to use gas from suction gas generators burning anthracite coal. It is important that illustrations of both the engines and gas generators be submitted.

Magnesia rings, No. 18617.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a firm desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of magnesia rings for inverted gas mantles.

Advertising novelties, No. 18618.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a firm in his district desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of novelties, such as cigar lighters, notebooks, nail clippers, pencils, and penknives, as well as ash trays, paper weights, etc. American terms and conditions accepted. Quotations c. i. f. French ports are desired. Correspondence may be in English.

Christmas cards, No. 18619.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district desires to correspond with importers who distribute large quantities of Christmas cards and who are in a position to place contracts for not less than 50,000 to 100,000 cards for a single design.

Doctors' and dentists' supplies, etc., No. 18620.—A firm in Italy has requested an American consul to place it in touch with dealers and manufacturers desiring agents in Italy for doctors', dentists', and druggists' supplies. Reference furnished. Correspondence may be in English.

Toilet soap, perfumery, and colors, No. 18621.—A company in India informs an American consul that it desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of toilet soap, perfumery, and colors.

Stearin, No. 18622.—An American business man in France states that he desires 4-ounce samples of stearin, pure saponification and single pressure. Prices f. o. b. for 2-ton lots, duty prepaid, are requested.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce.

SECURING PUBLICITY AT CANADIAN FAIRS.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Aug. 16.]

Foreign manufacturers, through Canadian importers, have adopted many methods to secure publicity for their goods. Newspapers, catalogues, hand bills, sign boards, circulars, personal letters, and window displays are used in the endeavor to promote sales. One of the most popular forms introduced during recent years is that of giving demonstrations. This method is employed in the case of such lines as dustless mops, stoves, vacuum cleaners, painting materials, washing machines, biscuits, cereals, etc. Many importers hold demonstrations in their stores. Show windows are also used to a considerable extent for this purpose.

Some importers, however, have gone a step farther, extending their demonstrations and exhibits to the annual fall fair held in their locality. These fairs attract farmers for many miles around, and the town people also take a great interest in them. The majority of importers who have exhibits at fall fairs report that results have been very satisfactory. In some cases many immediate sales have been made, and in others a good list of "prospects" has been secured, which resulted in sales being made later. Visitors at the fair are usually looking for circulars, booklets, etc., and in many instances are careful to take home any reading matter that may be distributed. This is particularly true with regard to the farmers. Advertising matter of this kind is read by the farmer and his family and often results in inquiries being made for the goods thus brought to their attention.

[A list of the important fall fairs in the Province of Ontario was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 30, 1915.]

ROOFING EXPERIMENTS IN COSTA RICA.

[Consul C. Donaldson, Port Limon, Sept. 5.]

The importation of galvanized-iron roofing into this district is large, as it has been used not only for practically all the buildings in this city and vicinity but also for fences and sidings instead of lumber. The value of the annual importation is over \$200,000. About 60 per cent comes from the United States, 30 per cent from England, and 10 per cent from Germany. However, the Northern Railway Co., finding that galvanized iron does not long resist the effects of the climate and salt sea air, especially on railway sheds and roofs of wharves, where locomotives are continually obliged to run and their smoke comes in contact with the roof, are now experimenting with other materials manufactured into roofing, and have covered one of the long wharves with a roofing manufactured of cement and asbestos.

All manufacturers of roofing desirous of introducing their products into this district should send their catalogues to the Northern Railway Co., the United Fruit Co., and Maduro & Sons, who are practically the only firms interested in the importation of such materials.

Catalogues are also kept on file at the consulate.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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FRENCH ALCOHOL MONOPOLY PROPOSED.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Vedlitz, American embassy, Paris, Sept. 11.]

The French Minister of Finance has presented to Parliament a bill proposing to suppress the privileges of so-called *bouilleurs du cru*, privileges by which farmers have heretofore been permitted to distill alcohol for their own consumption without paying excise taxes. It is also proposed that there should be a Government monopoly on denatured alcohol from 1917 onward, and that the inland tax on alcohol be raised to 500 francs per hectoliter (\$96.50 per 26.42 gallons).

SPECIFICATIONS PROVIDED FOR TEXTILE GOODS.

The United States Bureau of Standards has provided for the Commissioners' Office of the District of Columbia several complete cloth specifications. Heretofore the fabrics used in the manufacture of uniforms and shirts for policemen and firemen in the District have been selected by simple inspection. The awards for these fabrics this year will be based upon carefully drawn specifications, after analyzing cloth that has proven satisfactory. Furthermore, a careful examination of all deliveries of goods will be made during the year by the bureau.

VESSELS ADMITTED TO AMERICAN REGISTRY.

During the period from September 4 to October 2, 1915, the Bureau of Navigation announces that there were admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, three vessels of 3,587 gross tons, as follows:

Gas yacht *Yendys*, 7 tons, Irving J. Bissell, owner, Grand Haven, Mich.; formerly British steam yacht *Yendys*.

Steamer *Muskegon*, 3,323 tons, American Transatlantic Co. (Inc.), New York, N. Y.; formerly Danish steamer *Gotland*.

Schooner *Albania*, 257 tons, William Willard Howard, New York, N. Y.; formerly British schooner *G. M. Cochrane*.

Total, July 1 to October 2, 1915, 17 vessels, 45,779 gross tons; grand total, 165 vessels, 569,140 gross tons.

AUGUST FIGURES FOR CHILEAN NITRATE.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Sept. 6.]

The production of nitrate of soda in the northern part of Chile and the shipments thereof from all nitrate ports for the month of August of each of the last four years are shown in the table below. The quantities are in terms of Spanish quintals of 101.4 pounds avoirdupois, net, this being the unit prevalent in the nitrate trade in Chile.

August—	Production.	Exportation.
	<i>Quintals.</i>	<i>Quintals.</i>
1912	4, 870, 821	4, 115, 302
1913	5, 342, 292	4, 302, 476
1914	4, 830, 233	1, 362, 189
1915	3, 443, 409	4, 961, 080

Production is still short of exportation and has been so for several months. Stocks on the coast have been correspondingly reduced and the prices have strengthened in consequence. For prompt shipment 8s. 3d. (\$2 per 101.4 pounds) is being paid for 95 per cent nitrate. Laborers are being brought to the nitrate pampa constantly from other parts of Chile. Some additional oficinas will soon resume operations, so that an increased production may be looked for.

CHICORY PRICES ESTIMATED IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, American Legation, The Hague, Aug. 30.]

The principal growers and roasters of chicory in the Netherlands recently waited upon the Dutch Secretary of Agriculture to agree upon a proper percentage of the crop that might be exported and to fix the maximum domestic price. A committee was appointed to collect current statistics of crop and consumption.

The preliminary estimates of maximum prices, based on the present favorable crop outlook, are for prepared chicory: Retail, 6½ cents per pound; wholesale, 4½ cents; for dried roots, \$64 to \$68 per metric ton of 2,205 pounds; for fresh roots, \$11 to \$13.

The usual crop is about 10 tons of roots per acre. In 1913, 1,800 acres were planted, yielding 18,000 tons, and in 1914, 1,667 acres, yielding 18,245 tons

NEW SIBERIAN RAILWAY COMPLETED.

[London Times Russian Supplement, Sept. 18.]

The construction of the Altai Railway is now complete and the line will shortly be opened to traffic. The new railway will connect Novonikolaievsk on the trans-Siberian with Semipalatinsk in the Steppes Provinces, passing through Barnaul, in the Tomsk Government of Siberia, which will be the headquarters. This railroad, 500 miles in length, will serve the richest agricultural and mineral regions of Siberia. The Altai region has deposits of gold, silver, lead, zinc, and copper, which were worked in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but afterwards abandoned owing to lack of transportation facilities and other causes. It contains also the exceedingly rich Kuznetz coal basin, 6,000 square miles in extent.

JAPANESE LINES INCREASE NUMBER OF SHIPS.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha Steamship Co. has obtained from the California Board of State Harbor Commissioners an additional amount of dock space, the application being accompanied by the explanation that as the company has added five vessels to its trans-Pacific fleet operating to San Francisco, its present pier, already congested, would prove entirely inadequate.

In addition to the five steamers mentioned in these proceedings, according to press reports, the company is about to close arrangements for a sixth one, with the result that it will be able to operate a total of 10 vessels on the run between the Golden Gate and the Orient.

This company now has in the service mentioned the steamers *Shinyo*, *Chiyo*, *Tenyo*, and *Nippon Maru*, and, according to its letter to the Harbor Commission, has added the *Panama*, *Seattle*, *Darien*, *Shinyo Maru II*, and the one-time Pacific Mail liner *Persia*.

The Honolulu News-Bulletin hears that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha will open a trans-Pacific service beginning early in October between Japan, Honolulu, and San Francisco. If this is established, the Hawaiian paper says that it will mean three Japanese passenger steamer lines calling at Honolulu. Of 44 ship arrivals September 1 to 22, 10 were Japanese.

VARYING RULES RESTRICT NETHERLANDS EXPORTS.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, American Legation, The Hague, Aug. 27.]

The Dutch Government keeps constant watch on the foodstuffs of domestic production to insure that the population shall not suffer for lack of food and that they need not pay excessive prices, which might be caused by the scarcity of certain articles in countries that are at war. Thus there is a technical embargo on nearly all articles of Dutch production; but as there are certain things, like butter, cheese, bacon, and eggs, which are produced in excess of domestic requirements, special arrangements are made for restricted exports. New regulations are promulgated from week to week specifying, in connection with the domestic price, the maximum percentage of production that may be exported. These percentages vary in different localities and for different commodities. In some parts of the country at some times 90 per cent of the weekly production of cheese may be exported; at other times and places not more than 60 per cent; sometimes 75 per cent of the weekly butter production may be exported and sometimes only 50 per cent.

CHILE'S CUSTOMS RECEIPTS FOR AUGUST.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 6; all sums stated in U. S. gold.]

The total amount of duty collected by the Chilean customs authorities during August, 1915, was \$3,472,493, as compared with \$2,660,660 collected during the corresponding month of 1914. This increase was mainly due to larger shipments of nitrate, the export duties on which aggregated \$2,551,133, contrasted with \$1,189,396 last year. Customs collections on imports declined to \$713,315 in August, 1915, against \$1,158,026.

For the first eight months of 1915 Chile's customs collections totaled \$21,954,275, as compared with \$33,023,193 for the like period of 1914, a falling off of \$11,068,918.

COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN BUENOS AIRES.

[Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Aug. 12.]

There are three principal methods by which foreign firms may maintain direct representation in Buenos Aires.

The first by an ordinary traveling salesman, who has no permanent residence in the country, and solicits orders either directly, in his own name, by visiting customers, or indirectly by agreeing to sell to these customers through some agency already established.

The daily expenses of such traveling salesmen are the only items to be considered. Although it is possible to live at hotels (see article on cost of living in Buenos Aires, published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* of July 6, 1915), which, together with ordinary incidental expenses, amounts to about \$10 gold a day, yet no man should be restricted to this moderate sum. He must estimate his expenses at from \$15 to \$20 gold a day, according to the amount of his baggage, his entertainment account, his postage, and particularly his cable and telegraph tolls, an important item which must always be considered.

The local taxes exacted by the various provincial and municipal governments should not be included in the daily expenses. Each payment of this character must be an item by itself. The official provincial taxes can be supplied by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Foreign Representative as Resident Salesman.

The representative may, secondly, do business as a resident salesman, who has fixed charges such as office rent and office force, but who does not keep a stock of his goods on hand, his orders being supplied directly by written or cable messages to the main office at home. Such a resident salesman requires a bookkeeper, a stenographer, and an office boy.

For an office he can get a single room in a good building in the center of the city at about \$34 a month. If he requires more room and in a better part of the building, he will have to pay from \$64 to \$127 a month.

Simple bookkeeping is done on contract by men who have half a dozen or more clients. They charge from \$21 to \$42 a month, according to the time given. A bookkeeper who devotes all his working-day to one employer must be paid from \$127 to \$170 a month.

A stenographer can be secured for \$64 a month, but a good English and Spanish stenographer expects from \$85 to \$127 a month.

An office boy at the beginning of his service may be content at \$17 a month, but according to his efficiency and his knowledge of the business he will expect up to \$42 a month.

Each resident agent must pay a municipal tax. If he does not carry stock he pays \$212 annually; if he carries stock in his own room he pays only \$127 annually.

Other charges, such as postage, cable tolls, and the incidentals of running the office, including light, heat, tips, and other items, can not be calculated with any accuracy. It is wisest, however, to estimate them altogether as not less than \$50 gold a month.

May Maintain Larger Offices and Salesroom, With Warehouse.

A man may also act as a resident representative with larger offices and salesroom and a warehouse in which supplies are kept. The

items for bookkeeper, stenographer, and office boy do not vary in this larger business, but if an assistant cashier is required his salary will be from \$85 to \$127 a month; a cashier must be paid from \$106 to \$170 a month; local salesmen must receive from \$64 to \$212, with a certain allowance to them for commission on sales.

In addition to these original fixed charges, the warehouse or storage rental must be considered. This, of course, varies within broad limits, according to location and amount of space occupied. I know of one substantial warehouse in an accessible part of the city, with floor space of 900 square meters (9,685 square feet), the rental for which is \$170 a month. Taking this as a basis, more liberal space must be paid for according to requirements. Then there are cartage charges, brokerage charges, street taxes, and perhaps other incidental items which can not be estimated, but which must nevertheless be taken into calculation.

These fundamentals of doing business in Buenos Aires, added to the cost of living, as given in the article mentioned, makes possible a fair estimate of the expenses necessary for any company sending its representative to Argentina to secure permanent business in this market.

REPORT SHOWS LIGHTNING ROD PROTECTS PROPERTY.

The United States Bureau of Standards is about to issue a report of a survey of statistical data relating to life and property hazards from lightning and also of existing methods of protection against lightning. The field covered does not include electrical power and signal systems, but does include buildings of various kinds, precautions to be observed by persons in thunderstorms, and interesting information in regard to lightning.

The paper is, in the main, designed for the layman, although some parts of it are of necessity rather technical. The literature of the subjects of lightning phenomena and protection against lightning was thoroughly searched for reliable information; reports of fire insurance companies and fire marshals were examined, and lightning-rod manufacturers were asked to submit the results of their experience and observations as to how a system of lightning rods should be installed.

The net result of the investigation is to show by means of reliable statistics that the lightning rod, when properly installed, is a trustworthy means of protecting property against lightning. This report, Technologic Paper No. 56, may be obtained by application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

THE JEFFERSON NATIONAL HIGHWAY.

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, Canada, Sept. 20.]

The city of Winnipeg will send delegates to attend the meeting of the Commerce Association of New Orleans on November 15 and 16 to discuss the project of the "Jefferson National Highway" between New Orleans and Winnipeg in the same sense as the "Lincoln Highway" is the national route from the eastern to the western States. It will follow an entirely different route from the meridian highway between Winnipeg and Kansas City.

MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR AND MEAT PRODUCTS AT PRAGUE.

[Consul Charles L. Hoover, Prague, Bohemia, Austria.]

The 20 buildings that make up the plant of the Prague municipal abattoir, including the stalls and stables, have a floor space of more than 600,000 square feet, or nearly 14 acres. The buildings themselves are of brick, while all the interior parts where meat is handled are lined with white tile. The pens and stalls have cement floors and reinforced-concrete partitions. Rooms are provided in the second stories of all buildings for the operatives. Each employee has a sanitary locker. Lavatories and shower baths with hot and cold water are provided. The refrigerating plant is small, the capacity being only about 150 tons of meat; but as the animals killed are not owned by the municipality, but by the various butchers throughout the city, who take the meat away the same day it is killed, no need exists for large storage capacity at the plant. The cooling rooms are not artificially refrigerated, but are built with very thick walls and roofs, so that the temperature rarely rises above 46° F., even in summer.

The number of animals slaughtered in 1913, the last year for which statistics are available, was as follows: Cattle, large, all kinds, 28,966; calves, 4,267; sheep, 31,497; hogs, over 100 kilos (220.46 pounds), 14,118; hogs, under 100 kilos, 524,614; horses, 3,563; colts, 93.

Meat Products—Sausages and Hams—Machinery Used.

It is estimated that one-fourth of all the meat consumed in Prague is in the form of sausages, of which an almost infinite variety of kinds is made, and that another fourth is in the form of cured meats, such as ham and various forms of "Selchfleisch." The Prague hams, called "Pragerschinken," are highly esteemed for their delicate flavor and are exported in normal times in considerable quantities to other European countries and to South America. So far as the writer has been able to discover, the excellent flavor of these hams is due not so much to the process of curing as to the care used in the selection of the hogs. For the best quality, young, not overfat hogs, weighing not over 100 kilos (220.46 pounds), are selected. The hams are pickled in a mild brine for about six months, when they are taken out and lightly smoked. Owing to the weakness of the brine, the hams can not be kept long after they are taken out, three weeks being about the limit. The export hams are canned. Very little bacon is produced, although breakfast bacon is coming into more general favor.

All manufacture of sausages and curing and smoking of meats is carried on outside the municipal plant by a number of comparatively small firms. A considerable amount of machinery is used in preparing the sausage meat and in filling the casings, but as the equipment now in use is fully sufficient to meet the needs of the manufacturers, the demand for new machinery is rather limited. However, any machines possessing special advantages as to speed or thoroughness should be offered to the dealers here, as it is said that the packers are always eager to improve their machinery.

Lard and tallow are rendered either by butchers or in the households in ordinary open kettles, and apparently nothing is known of improved methods of lard refining and evaporating.

Utilization of Offal—Value of the Vermiform Appendix.

Practically every part of the butchered animal is utilized. The blood is carefully collected and sold to an albumen factory on the premises, the manufactured product being used in the color industry. The bones are sold to glue factories. The manure is collected in tank wagons and at once taken outside the city limits. Great care is now exercised in saving and dressing the vermiform appendix of the ox. This organ is manufactured into goldbeaters' skin, which formerly had practically no use outside the industry suggested by its name, but which is now employed in the manufacture of airships. Its value is consequently immensely increased.

Functions of Cooperative Societies.

Four "Genossenschaften," or cooperative societies, care for the preparation and sale of the sausage casings and hides. Through these societies, which procure their funds from the banks at a favorable rate of interest, the individual butchers dispose of their small lots of casings and hides by pooling with all the other butchers in their society, so that the latter is enabled to offer the sausage maker casings of different sizes in quantities to meet his needs. For his fresh hides the butcher receives about 75 per cent of their value from the society, which, in turn, borrows the money from the bank. When a sufficient number of hides is accumulated the society sells them at auction.

[The names of dealers in slaughterhouse and packers' machinery and accessories were transmitted with this report, and Consul Hoover suggests that illustrated catalogues be sent them. Names of the leading meat packers and sausage makers are also given. These lists may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 65222.]

SCRAP-METAL EXPORTS FROM BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 9.]

Numerous inquiries from American firms desiring to be placed in touch with local dealers in and exporters of scrap metal and other scrap material would indicate that there is a demand for these in the United States. The following statistics show the exports of scrap metal as classified by the Brazilian Statistical Bureau:

Exported to—	1913		1914	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
Belgium	624,051	\$4,744	652,535	\$9,604
Germany	1,426,051	125,833	851,205	78,087
Great Britain	699,674	66,270	871,397	59,769
Holland	153,001	1,942	175,980	2,950
Italy	8,618,489	22,652	2,753,778	12,700
Portugal	15,238	1,060	5,331	392
Sweden			1,065,650	7,328
United States	23,567	2,725	66	15
Total	11,760,071	225,226	6,377,951	170,845

[A list of dealers in and exporters of scrap metal at Rio de Janeiro may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 65429.]

PROPOSED BAG-MAKING INDUSTRY IN ARGENTINA.

[Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires, July 28.]

The President of Argentina, in a decree dated October 22, 1914, nominated a commission to study the possibilities of promoting an Argentine fiber industry and to advise on the most practical and proper means to be adopted for utilizing the various fiber plants growing naturally within the county.

This commission was to give attention also to any experiments that might already have been made in this direction, to furnish stimulating data, or even to establish factories for the local manufacture of the product of these fibers, in order to meet the great consumption of such materials as bags and burlaps, which the country is constantly introducing from abroad. This commission has just made its report, an analysis of which follows, to the Minister of Agriculture.

Bag Material from Linen Straw—Data Presented by the Commission.

The commission has made a careful study of all factors relating to the fiber industry and has sought the advice of importers as well as that of manufacturers who dealt particularly in fiber products. The conclusion they have reached is that the encouragement of one industry—that is, of the preparation of bags for cereals—ought to be especially undertaken by the national Government, since it would establish a new industry and utilize the great natural wealth in this field of agriculture. The commission has no doubt that the material for bags obtainable from the linen straw that is at present a residue from thrashing flax can be turned to profit. This material is now of little value, but it is very abundant and the yield is close to the commercial centers.

The methods of developing the fiber are well known, and no great difficulty should be encountered in obtaining the results required. Argentina has under cultivation 1,800,000 hectares (4,447,800 acres) in flax, the greatest area of any one country in the world. India has 1,200,000 hectares (2,965,200 acres) and the United States 1,156,000 hectares (2,856,476 acres), with other countries in very diminished ratio. The area in Argentina is in the Provinces of Cordoba, Entre Rios, Santa Fe, and Buenos Aires, but flax is, or can be, grown in many other parts of the Republic.

In general terms, the commission presents the following data:

- (1) The area cultivated with flax is 1,800,000 hectares (4,447,800 acres).
- (2) Two thousand five hundred kilos (5,510 pounds) of straw are given for each hectare, of which 75 per cent of fiber can be utilized.
- (3) Of this amount 15 to 24 per cent is serviceable, but the estimates of the committee have taken the minimum amount, 15 per cent, on which to base calculations, the minimum yield being, therefore, 1,875 kilos (4,135 pounds).
- (4) This fiber is sold abroad at 400 francs (\$77) per ton, and is there utilized.
- (5) The loss of fiber transformed into cloth is about 20 per cent.

Analyzing these results, the committee presents these figures: The total flax straw will be 3,375,000 tons. The fiber will be 506,250 tons. The cloth will be 405,000 tons. From this cloth, estimating each bag to weigh 400 grams (14 ounces), there can be produced 1,012,500,000 bags. Each hectare ($2\frac{1}{2}$ acres) will produce 562 bags.

These 562 bags, at the cost of 10 centavos (about \$0.05) each, will represent a value of \$24 per $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

A practical factor to be taken into consideration is the cost of transportation of the straw to the factory. The roads in the country are bad, but it is hoped that if the industry is once established it will have a decided influence in improving them.

Cost of Factory—Advantages Derivable from Plan—Government Support Urged.

An estimate is also given of the cost of one factory capable of producing enough cloth for 10,000,000 bags per year. The opinion is expressed that probably 10 such factories would be needed in various parts of the country to complete the scheme for utilizing this now wasted fiber material. With due economy, it would seem that such a factory can be built for 1,000,000 pesos (\$424,550).

A factory of this character would be set to work at first only for the production of bags for cereals, but there are many other uses to which such cloth could be put, and after such establishments were once in operation it is to be supposed that the benefit of producing the cloth within the country would make itself felt in various directions. At present the sum of \$17,000,000 gold is invested abroad in the purchase of such cloth, of which burlap accounts for \$13,000,000, and if this sum can be retained in Argentina to develop national industries, the advantage is evident. The committee concludes with the opinion that the industry can be developed profitably, and that the result will be to reduce the price to the consumers of bags and similar containers. The following conclusions resulting from their studies are thus given:

(1) Of all fiber plants within the country, linen straw can be most practicably and immediately manufactured into cloth such as burlap.

(2) Other plants mentioned can also be utilized to advantage as soon as the factories are in working condition.

(3) It is to the advantage of the nation to adopt such means as are suggested to establish this industry, and the nation would be warranted in giving support to those undertaking its establishment—this support to take the shape of subsidies, guaranties of interest, advancement of capital, and exemption from taxes and customhouse duties until such factories are securely under way.

Effect of Economic Conditions—Possible Openings Afforded.

The crisis produced by the European war has to a great extent disturbed economic conditions in Argentina and has restricted the Government in its desire to accord in this instance the generous treatment which it has hitherto manifested toward such proposals. It would seem, however, that some means of securing the necessary money may be found, and that the investigations of this commission will therefore lead to practical results. This will afford a good opening for the possible investment of capital or for manufacturers of machinery adapted to the spinning of flax and the production of this material for burlaps and bags.

Condensed-milk production in the United States exceeds \$35,000,000 in value annually, only about 4 per cent of which has been exported. However, exports for the year ended June 30, 1915, totaled \$3,066,642, against \$1,341,140 the year previous.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AT ROSARIO, ARGENTINA.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Aug. 14.]

All six of the public-utilities enterprises of this city are foreign—two English (water and sewerage), two Belgian (street railway and electric light and power), and two French (port and gas)—and all have main offices in Europe.

Port Works—Electric Light and Power.

The present port of Rosario was constructed by Jean et Georges Hersent and Schneider et Cie. (Creusot). It is operated for the Argentine Government, under regulations prescribed by the latter, by the Société Anonyme du Port de Rosario, which has a concession expiring in 1942. The port company has about 3 miles of wharf, ample and modern facilities for handling cargo, steam and electric cranes, and about 30 miles of railway. It has its own electric power plant, and a grain elevator with a capacity of approximately 40,000 cubic yards. In 1913, 2,076 steamers, with a total tonnage of 2,523,086, and 977 sailing vessels, with a total tonnage of 171,009, entered the port.

The electric light and power company, the Sociedad de Electricidad de Rosario, has a concession expiring in 1933, the city binding itself to take a certain amount of current for street lighting. The plant, with a capacity of 18,000 kilowatts, is asserted to be the finest in South America. The value of the plants (new and old) is given in the last published report of the company as \$7,373,447. Total receipts for recent years have been: 1911, \$999,938; 1912, \$1,131,782; 1913, \$1,155,899. The number of subscribers increased from 8,051 in 1911 to 11,452 in 1913. Cost of production at plant was reduced from \$0.025 per kilowatt in 1912 to \$0.013 in the spring of 1914.

Street Railway System—Gas Works.

The Rosario street railway system is owned and operated by the Compagnie Générale des Tramways Electriques de Rosario. The franchise runs for 55 years, beginning with 1906. The capital is said to be approximately \$7,720,000. Horse traction was completely eliminated in 1908. The number of passengers carried increased from 18,744,542 in 1909 to 27,014,436 in 1914. Fare within the city is \$0.04246, and to points in the suburbs it is \$0.06339.

The Rosario gas works are owned and operated by the Compagnie du Gas de Rosario, working at present under a 30-year franchise granted October 18, 1910. The following figures for 1914 are from municipal returns: Private lighting—number of consumers, 2,994; consumption, 58,832,113 cubic feet; public lighting—number of lamps, 1,523; consumption, 41,276,509 cubic feet.

Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Rosario is supplied with water by the Consolidated Water Works Co. of Rosario (Ltd.), under a 70-year franchise granted in 1888. Water is taken from the Parana River and passed through a clearing and filtering process. The company had 219 miles of distributing mains in June, 1915. Gross receipts for 1914 were \$610,625 and working expenses \$244,976, leaving net receipts of \$365,649. The dividend on common stock was 8 per cent. The number of services increased from 11,255 in 1905 to 23,333 in 1914.

The sewerage system is in the hands of the Rosario Drainage Co. (Ltd.). While the water and drainage companies have the same secretary in London and the same manager at Rosario, their financial organization, directorates, bookkeeping, offices, and subordinate staffs are distinct. The drainage company operates under a franchise granted in 1888, renewed in 1910, and expiring in 1974. The value of the investment (cost of undertaking) up to June 30, 1914, is placed at \$4,287,729. The number of house connections increased from 3,435 in 1905 to 6,466 in 1914, and the net revenue from \$59,198 to \$211,473 during the same period. A 3 per cent dividend was paid on common stock in 1914. Like those for water, the sewerage rates were fixed some years ago, taking the then existing rental as a basis. Rates for sewerage service are 4 per cent. Those for water were fixed on the basis of approximately 6 per cent. Rents have decreased since the establishment of the rates.

[The entire report on this subject by Consul Dawson, containing the addresses of these companies and many additional details concerning capitalization, rates charged, etc., will be loaned to interested persons by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 66042.]

PAPER CONTRACTS IN AUSTRALIA.

[Sydney Herald, Aug. 23.]

The Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Hoyle, stated yesterday that the Government is seeking to have its supplies of paper produced locally. With this object in view, the Government proposes to give a five years' contract, embracing orders for \$2,500,000, on the understanding that in two years the necessary plant is established here to manufacture supplies for three years. It will be open to the contractors to procure the first two years' supplies from any part of Australia.

Mr. Hoyle is watching with great interest the results of the tests being conducted at the Sydney Technical College with various timber grown in the State to see whether any will produce a satisfactory wood pulp for paper making. So far ironbark, contrary to all anticipations, has yielded the most promising results. On present indications, however, it looks, Mr. Hoyle says, as if local paper manufacturers would have to depend, for the present at all events, on imported wood pulp.

HULL OILSEED IMPORTS.

[Consul Charles M. Hathaway, jr., Hull, England, Aug. 30.]

According to the Hull correspondent of the Oil and Color Trades Journal the imports of linseed at Hull during the first seven months of 1915 amounted to 51 per cent of the United Kingdom total; those of rapeseed, 51.7 per cent; cotton seed, 47 per cent; soya beans, 76.6 per cent; and castor beans, 87 per cent. Of palm kernels, peanuts, and copra, Hull imported during the same period only 28,262 tons out of an aggregate of 311,628 tons for the United Kingdom, or about one-eleventh of the whole, but dealing in this last mentioned has developed since the war began, and new installations in progress indicate a rapid increase.

INCREASE IN AMOY TRADE FOR HALF YEAR.

[Consul Lester Maynard, Amoy, China, Aug. 7.]

The estimated values of the trade of the port of Amoy—for the principal articles only and for both foreign and domestic commerce—show an increase of more than \$222,000 in the first six months of 1915, as compared with the corresponding period last year. This increase, however, is partly taken up by reexports of goods other than of local origin. About half of the increase is accounted for in this manner, and the remainder is the result of increased imports from other Chinese ports, notably Shanghai.

The following table shows the imports, exports, and total values of the trade of the port by months:

Months.	1914			1915		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
January and February	\$805, 164	\$88, 826	\$893, 990	\$896, 387	\$113, 140	\$1, 109, 527
March	1, 246, 245	103, 259	1, 349, 504	1, 058, 082	155, 973	1, 214, 055
April	815, 598	58, 061	873, 659	710, 720	50, 447	761, 167
May	977, 508	86, 737	1, 064, 245	897, 124	56, 689	953, 813
June	787, 107	67, 788	855, 895	1, 092, 736	128, 300	1, 221, 036
Total	4, 632, 422	404, 671	5, 037, 093	4, 755, 049	504, 549	5, 259, 598

The most striking features of the import trade are the considerable increases in goods of Chinese origin, particularly beans and peas, bean cakes, flour, dried shrimps, and tobacco leaf. Rice also shows a great increase, but this is divided between imports from abroad and those from Chinese ports. Piece goods of foreign origin show a falling off under all headings, except T cloths. The increased importation of flour from Shanghai is worthy of note, since the flour trade of this port is to a great extent falling into Chinese hands to the detriment of foreign imports. For a time the importation of matches was impeded, because of the cutting off of the European source of supply. Although the quantity is now below normal, the price has so far advanced that the values have registered a marked increase. Matches are now imported principally from Japan. An important decrease is noted in Malacca tin, chiefly as a result of disturbed conditions in the mining areas and the lack of demand caused by the loss of markets for the products of the local canning plants. The most serious decreases of all occurred in sugar and in cotton yarns.

All exports, except paper, rice vermicelli, and sugar, show a decrease. The latter consists almost wholly of reexports not of local origin. The increase in this item causes the net total estimated values of the exports to show an advance of approximately \$100,000, whereas in reality the figures of exports of local origin remain about stationary or show a slight decrease.

Shipping records show a falling off in vessels of all nationalities except Chinese, the latter registering a slight gain.

The motor ship *Bengkalis*, built for the Koninklyke Paketvaart Maatschappy, has just been launched in Holland. It measures: Length, 230 feet; width, 38 feet; and depth, 20½ feet. It is destined for passenger and cargo service in Dutch East Indies. The Diesel motors develop 650 indicated horsepower.

FEMALE STUDENTS IN BRESLAU UNIVERSITY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Germany, Aug. 10.]

The matriculation period at Breslau University for the winter semester 1915-16 will be from October 15 to November 4, inclusive. In addition to the regular courses of study, the following free lectures will be of general interest: Curacy, Social Care, Islam and the Christian Orient, Industrial Contracts in Their Modern Form, The World's Economic War, Brain and Soul, War Hygiene, Chemical Plant Processes, Art Itinerary in Italy, Structure of the Alps, Forest Protection, Photoplay and its Technique, and Introduction of a Uniform System of German Stenography.

During the summer semester just closing there were 225 female students lawfully matriculated in Breslau University. Of these, 1 studied law; 41 medicine; 7 dentistry; 3 ancient philology; 98 modern philology; 4 history, including history of art; 39 mathematics; 25 physics; 1 art and art history; and 6 political economy. Of the above students, 9 are studying for the purpose of continuing their education in general or in a special sphere, 190 are striving for admission to the academic faculty examinations, 16 are preparing for a doctor's degree, and 1 intends to pass the principal teacher's examination.

Besides these regularly enrolled students, the rector has granted permission to 31 women to visit the lectures as guests. Of these, 12 are studying modern and 4 ancient philology; 4 history; 2 each mathematics, physics, and agriculture; 1 each evangelical theology, law, medicine, and dentistry.

SCARCITY OF WIRE ROPE IN RUSSIA.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Aug. 25.]

The petroleum producers of the Baku district are experiencing considerable inconvenience from the scarcity of steel-wire rope. Previous to the war wire rope and wire to be made into rope by Russian manufacturers were imported principally from England. At present, in consequence of the limited exports of steel goods from England, steel-wire rope of British manufacture has almost disappeared from the local markets and its price has risen by 300 to 400 per cent. At a conference held in Baku to discuss this subject it was proposed temporarily to substitute for steel-wire ropes, hemp ropes, which it may be possible to obtain from India. It was stated that Swedish wire rope has been found satisfactory for the local requirements of the petroleum industry.

RESULTS OF FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Siam, July 22.]

As a result of foreign trade opportunity No. 13879, relating to portable boat motors, published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for September 30, 1914, trial orders for 14 motors were placed with various American manufacturers who had responded to the request for literature and price lists. These motors were delivered only a short time ago, having been detained in Singapore.

Portable boat motors are sure to become very popular in Bangkok, and under favorable condition of trade a large demand is likely to follow this trial order.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the file number given.

Iron wire, tin plates, and coal, No. 18623.—A report from an American consular officer in Portugal states that a firm wishes to import iron wire for making keys for opening sardine tins, annual consumption about 250 tons; tin plates of usual size; and about 8,000 tons of coal annually. Catalogues and price lists are desired at once. It is stated that the firm will pay half of order by cash in New York and remainder by 90-day draft. Correspondence should be in Portuguese or Spanish. Bank references furnished.

Boot and shoe findings, No. 18624.—A firm in Greece informs an American consul that it is in the market for shoe pegs, nails, laces, blackings, heel irons, and boot protectors, as well as other articles used in the shoe industry. Samples, catalogues, and full details concerning freight rates from New York to Saloniki should be furnished. The firm is willing to accept any terms of payment imposed by American firms. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

Arc-lamp carbons, ash oars, etc., No. 18625.—An American consul in the United Kingdom reports a good market for arc-lamp carbons, ash oars, beveled glass, chemical supplies, door bells, hair pins, etc. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Suplate of potash, No. 18626.—A letter to the Bureau states that a business man in the Azores desires to communicate with firms in the United States selling sulphate of potash, containing no chlorine or the maximum of 1 per cent of chlorine, for agricultural purposes.

Lamp glasses, No. 18627.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Canada requesting the names of manufacturers of duplex and bulge lamp glasses.

Live stock, No. 18628.—A doctor in Honduras has informed an American consul that he desires to purchase six or more yearling breed bulls to be imported via Puerto Cortes. He is not seeking an especially fine pedigreed class, but, rather, a larger number of hardy animals of a less select stock. Sellers may dictate their own terms.

Instruments, No. 18629.—A report from an American consular officer states that there is a demand for catalogues and prices of bacteriological instruments and accessories in Brazil. It is stated that there is a possible order now, and prompt attention to this opportunity is suggested.

Machinery, No. 18630.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that particulars are requested for machinery for manufacturing desiccated, very fine, egg-yolk powder, perfectly soluble in cold water.

Buttons, studs, gloves, etc., No. 18631.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commission agent in the United Kingdom stating that he desires to represent, on a commission basis, manufacturers of pearl, ivory, and celluloid buttons, metal press studs, women's gloves, and dress shields.

Umbrella fittings, No. 18632.—An umbrella and parasol manufacturer in England informs an American consular officer that he desires to get in touch with makers of umbrella fittings, such as ribs, runners, sticks, horns, etc.

Pearls, No. 18633.—A business man in India desires to communicate with American firms interested in buying pearls.

Electric elevators, etc., No. 18634.—An American consular officer in France reports that an agent desires to enter into commercial relations with manufacturers of electric elevators and supplies, and to obtain, as soon as possible, catalogues and price lists. Correspondence may be in English.

Silverware, cutlery, etc., No. 18635.—A report from an American consular officer in Italy states that a business man in his district desires to secure an agency for all of Italy for silverware, plated silverware, cutlery, and office and household furniture. Full particulars, including terms, discounts, etc., are solicited. Reference furnished. Correspondence may be in English.

- Metal tubes**, No. 18636.—A business man in Canada informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in communication with exporters of metal tubes, such as are used for tooth paste. Samples and quotations are requested.
- Scales**, No. 18637.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district has requested catalogues and price lists of scales.
- Chemicals**, No. 18638.—A report from an American consular officer in Brazil states that a man is in the market for chloride of sulphur, sulphide of carbon, benzine, lithophone, and pentasulphide of antimony.
- Crude drugs**, No. 18639.—A firm in India informs an American consul that it desires to communicate with buyers of Indian crude drugs, especially the ajowan seed, from which the drug thymol is made. Samples will be forwarded to interested firms. Correspondence may be in English.
- Calcium carbide, paper, etc.**, No. 18640.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a company in his district desires to represent manufacturers of calcium carbide; paper, printing, writing, and packing; cut nails; tools, glassware; and crockery. References furnished.
- Fishing lines**, No. 18641.—A report from an American consul in Spain reports a possible market for fishing lines.
- Cotton goods, cutlery, etc.**, No. 18642.—A company on the east coast of Africa informs an American consular officer that it desires to receive catalogues and price lists devoted to cotton goods, cutlery, enamelware, laundry soap, and watches and clocks of the cheaper variety. Correspondence may be in English.
- Nickel sulphate**, No. 18643.—A report from an American consular officer in the Netherlands states that a firm is in the market for nickel sulphate intended for local use only. At present the company wishes to purchase 3 or 4 tons and requests that prices, c. i. f. Rotterdam, be furnished.
- Unroasted barley and malt**, No. 18644.—A report from an American consular officer in Switzerland states that a firm desires to receive quotations and samples of unroasted barley and malt to be used as a substitute for coffee. Correspondence may be in English.
- Toothpicks**, No. 18645.—A firm in Hungary desires to communicate with American manufacturers of toothpicks. Samples and prices, f. o. b. neutral European port, should be submitted. Correspondence should be in German.
- Paints, oils, etc.**, No. 18646.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm wishes to receive quotations on paints, oils, colors, paintbrushes, and other articles used by painters. If possible samples should be sent and prices quoted c. i. f. Palermo. Correspondence should be in Italian.
- Bottles and pharmaceutical supplies**, No. 18647.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a business man desires to communicate with firms handling pharmaceutical supplies, and also manufacturers of medicine bottles, large and small.
- Woven goods, etc.**, No. 18648.—A business man in Venezuela desires to receive catalogues of woven goods and machinery for weaving. It is also stated that he is interested in precious stones. Correspondence may be in English.
- Filing cabinets**, No. 18649.—A report from an American consular officer in South America states that there is a request for catalogues of steel filing cabinets and stationery supplies in general. Correspondence may be in English.
- Concentrated lime**, No. 18650.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district is desirous of getting in touch with manufacturers of concentrated lime. Samples, with lowest quotations, c. i. f. South African ports, are requested; also information as to how long lime will last in the packages without corroding or deteriorating. An analyst's report must be given and must state if the Government has reported on it.
- Sanitary plumbing supplies**, No. 18651.—A company in India has informed an American consular officer that it desires to receive catalogues, price lists, and full information regarding sanitary plumbing supplies. Quotations are desired c. i. f. Rangoon.

PORTUGAL FORBIDS SALE OF TRAWLERS.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 9.]

A decree has been issued by the Portuguese Government prohibiting the sale of trawlers. Owing to the very high prices offered for these ships the country's fishing fleet was seriously threatened.

The civil government of Lisbon has fixed the retail price of fish, which are sold from house to house by about 2,000 fish girls, as follows: Stickleback, per dozen, large, 80 cents; medium, 60 cents; small, 10 cents; sardines, per dozen, large, 60 cents; medium, 40 cents; small, 20 cents; mackerel, 10 cents each; salted mackerel, 15 cents each. The police have had considerable difficulty in enforcing sales at the scheduled prices.

IMMENSE CAR FERRYBOAT ON ONTARIO.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Toronto, Canada, Sept. 17.]

The largest car ferryboat on Lake Ontario, built by the Polson Iron Works at Toronto, has just made its initial trip between Cobourg, Ontario, and Charlotte, the port for Rochester, N. Y. The new boat, *Ontario No. 2*, is a companion vessel to *Ontario No. 1*, though a little larger, *No. 2* being 318 feet long, 54 feet wide, with a tonnage capacity of 5,567 tons. It can carry 30 loaded freight cars and 1,000 passengers. The boat, which has returned to Toronto for some additional work, will go into regular commission in a week or two.

SINO-JAPANESE THROUGH TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

[Extract from Manchuria Daily News of Aug. 25, by Consul A. A. Williamson, Dairen.]

The stations on the Chinese Government Railways, with which the interlineal through service telegraphic system was opened on August 20 are—

- (1) Peking-Mukden line head office, Tientsin; Tientsin Central; Tientsin-East; Peking; Hsinminfu; Shanbaikwan; and Huangkutun.
- (2) Peking-Hankow line head office, Peking; and Hankow.
- (3) Peking-Kalgan line head office, Peking; Nankow; and Kalgan.
- (4) Tientsin-Pukow line head office, Tientsin; Tsinanfu; and Pukow.
- (5) Shanghai-Nanking line head office, Shanghai; Nanking; and Shanghai.

FOREIGN TRADE OF ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Sept. 13.]

The combined value of Italy's imports and exports for the first six months of the present calendar year was, according to Italian official statistics, \$571,821,310. Exports reached a total of \$246,026,660, or \$2,128,903 less than in January-June, 1914. Imports amounted to \$325,794,650, a decrease of \$38,622,137.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce.

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HIRSCHBERG FRUIT AND NUT CROPS.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Germany, Sept. 7.]

There are unusually good prospects of rich fruit and nut crops in the Hirschberg Valley this year. Pears are very good and the markets are well stocked. Apples will follow in a few weeks with a good average yield. Walnut trees are full of nuts. The grapevines are also well laden, and this crop will be especially interesting as it is only a few years since their cultivation was first commenced. Hazel-nuts, as usual, will be very plentiful.

PRUSSIAN RAILWAY NOTES.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Sept. 7.]

A recent report in the first number of a publication, "Der Staatsbedarf," just issued, announces that the Prussian-Hessian Government Railway and the Imperial Railroad of Alsace-Lorraine have placed order for 763 locomotives, 935 passenger coaches, 14 baggage cars, and 13,200 freight cars, all to be built in Germany.

The Oberschlesische Eisenbahnbedarfs A. G., in its semiannual report for the first half of 1915, announces a surplus of about 5,750,000 marks (\$1,368,500), as compared with 5,870,000 marks (\$1,379,060) for the whole of 1914. The second half of 1915 is starting very favorably, according to the same report.

COTTON APPARATUS FOR RUSSIA.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Sept. 3.]

At the local office of the Russian Department of Agriculture some apparatus has been ordered from the United States for determining the quality of cotton fibers and cotton seeds. A collection of standard specimens is also expected. This apparatus is a great rarity in Russia and is not used even by the biggest firms.

ECONOMIC POSITION OF SUGAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

More than one-fifth of the 40 billion pounds of sugar that represent the world's production last year was consumed in the United States. The consumption of sugar in the United States, exclusive of its sugar-producing islands, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, has been calculated by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, as 8,630 million pounds, or 86 pounds per capita.

Of the sugar consumed in this country in 1914-15, 1,941 million pounds were produced on the mainland, 1,281 million pounds in Hawaii, 589 million pounds in Porto Rico, 327 million pounds in the Philippines, and the remainder in foreign countries. Cuba, the leading source of our imported sugar, sent us 4,785 million pounds in the last fiscal year, that quantity being nearly four times as much as that from Hawaii and eight times as much as that from Porto Rico.

Beet sugar now leads cane sugar by nearly 1 billion pounds in the yearly domestic product, having reversed the conditions which obtained 20 years ago. In 1895, for example, according to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, the domestic sugar product totaled approximately 775 million pounds, the share of beet sugar being only 45 million pounds. In 1915 our sugar product had increased to 1,941 million pounds, the share of beet having grown to 1,448 million and that of cane having decreased to 493 million pounds. Meantime beet sugar has practically disappeared from our imports. Eighteen years ago, when the Cuban supply of cane sugar was cut off by war, we imported nearly 2 billion pounds of beet sugar. After the return of peace in Cuba our imports of beet sugar fell off sharply, and in the last fiscal year beet sugar imports amounted to less than 1 million pounds.

The cutting off of the sugar supply of European countries has resulted in a remarkable expansion of our sales of sugar to foreign countries. For the fiscal year 1915 they aggregated 582 million pounds, as against 22½ million pounds in 1900 and 40½ million pounds in 1880.

The following table presents the leading changes in the economic position of sugar in 1914-15, as compared with the preceding year:

	1913-14	1914-15
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
World's sugar product.....	42,053,000,000	40,424,000,000
United States cane-sugar product.....	601,000,000	493,000,000
United States beet-sugar product.....	1,467,000,000	1,448,000,000
United States imports:		
Cuban.....	4,927,000,000	4,785,000,000
Hawaiian.....	1,115,000,000	1,281,000,000
Porto Rican.....	641,000,000	589,000,000
Philippine.....	117,000,000	327,000,000
All other.....	18,000,000	309,000,000
United States exports sugar.....	72,000,000	582,000,000
United States consumption of sugar.....	8,794,000,000	8,630,000,000

Ambassador Frederic C. Penfield, of Vienna, advises that governmental permits for the sale of Austrian sea vessels to foreigners must now be obtained in order to render such transactions legal.

EXPERIMENTS WITH NATURAL AND ILLUMINATING GAS.

Experiments made by the United States Bureau of Mines in the analysis of natural and illuminating gas, by fractional distillation at low temperatures and pressures, are described in a publication just issued. By the methods used it is possible to separate and determine the hydrocarbons in gaseous fuels, and a wide field of investigation is opened up, in that a much more exact study of combustion processes can be made, and chemical changes more closely followed and better understood.

This publication is one of a series dealing with the increase of efficiency in the production and utilization of fuels. Fractional distillation in a vacuum at low temperatures is employed in the experiments. The gas is liquefied, the different constituents separated by proper adjustment of temperatures, the various fractions removed with a mercury pump, and these fractions analyzed by ordinary slow-combustion methods. The method was successfully applied to the separation of hydrocarbons in natural gas and in artificial illuminating gas, and is the only known method applicable to the separation of some hydrocarbons.

The first part of this report describes the results of experiments by which the natural gas used in Pittsburgh, Pa., was separated into its individual paraffin hydrocarbons. The second part describes experiments in which the separation of the illuminants in artificial illuminating gas, that used in Pittsburgh, Pa., and that used in New York City, was effected. Some experiments to determine the practicability of separating gases whose boiling points lie close together, such as ethane and ethylene, are included.

Copies of Technical Paper 104, "Analysis of natural gas and illuminating gas by fractional distillation at low temperatures and pressures," may be obtained from the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C.

SOUTH RUSSIAN MINING INDUSTRY IN 1915.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Sept. 3.]

According to data collected by the Association of the Mining Industry of South Russia, the amount of pig iron produced during the first half of 1915 was 1,514,223 short tons, or 260,231 tons less than during the corresponding period of 1914. In consequence of the difficulties experienced in the transportation of fuel, ore, etc., the supplies at the works had reached a low level at the end of June, 1915. The production of half-products was considerably reduced, and in connection with this, the production of steel and iron goods dropped from 1,371,600 tons in the first half of 1914 to 1,122,400 tons in the first half of 1915.

The shipment of manufactured iron and steel from the works to the markets of consumption experienced a still greater reduction; during the first six months of 1914 these shipments aggregated 1,213,900 tons, while during the corresponding period of 1915 they amounted to about 944,200 tons. The shipments of all products of the southern works, which reached the figure of 1,886,700 tons during the period January-June, 1914, amounted to 1,453,700 tons during the corresponding period in 1915.

MARKET FOR TOMATO SAUCE IN NORWAY.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Norway, Aug. 20.]

Since Italy entered the war, the price of canned tomato sauce (purée) has gone up in Stavanger. Prices formerly ranged from 35 to 50 shillings (\$8.31 to \$12.17), according to thickness of the purée, per 100 kilos (220 pounds), delivered c. i. f. Stavanger. Now prices range from 50 to 70 shillings (\$12.17 to \$17.03). It is estimated that this district alone uses about 25,000 cases of the purée a year, and that perhaps 10,000 more cases are used in other parts of Norway. Each case contains 50 kilos (110 pounds). The pulp is used as a dressing for canned fish by all the fish factories, of which there are about 50 here.

It would seem that American dealers in tomato sauce might find a market here if certain conditions were met. Very little American sauce has been tried, although a number of years ago certain American samples did not prove satisfactory. The American sauce, when eaten with the fish, seemed to have a gritty taste. This is thought to have been due to the presence of too many seeds. The color was also not the rich red color of the best Italian sauce, which is guaranteed not to be artificial. This is important. Sauce of a brownish color is not wanted. Both thin and thick purée is used, but mostly thick.

The proper preparation of this product seems to be an art in which only Italy has succeeded to date. Spain also supplies a small amount to this market, but Spain's contribution can not compare with Italy's and packers have also noticed a gritty taste in the Spanish purée. Even French sauce has proved unsatisfactory. Some has been imported from England, but this is manufactured by an English factory in Italy.

There is at present no immediate shortage of sauce threatened in Stavanger. However, packers have placed unusually large orders in Italy for fear that some of the contracts may have to be canceled. They have already been informed that the Italian Government has had much tomato land planted to corn since the war began, and they have been warned to place orders long in advance.

Italian purée, such as is used here, is also imported into America. The sauce is received here in 5-kilo (11-pound) tins, 10 tins to a case. The cases must be strong and should be strapped with iron. There is no duty on tomato pulp.

Correspondence may be in English. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Stavanger.

[A number of small sample cans of the sauce have been received from Consul Dunlap and may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branches. Refer to file No. 65546.]

[Consul B. M. Rasmussen, Bergen, Sept. 1.]

Additional Information from Norway.

According to the latest available statistics, the annual imports of tomato purée amount to 1,898,661 pounds, valued at \$99,240.

It is important that instructions in regard to size of containers be strictly complied with, as the small cans are dutiable. According to the Norwegian tariff of 1914, tomato purée put up in bottles, jars, or sealed cans, the combined weight of which exceeds 5 kilos (exact equivalent, 11.023 pounds), is admitted duty free, whereas if put up in smaller quantities it is dutiable at 25 öre per kilo (3 cents a pound). Tomato sauce is usually bought through local agents representing

the manufacturers, and firms with established credit have the choice between three months' credit or a 3 per cent discount. Names of local agents are Christoffer Dekke, Ernest Olsen, F. C. Schönberg, Georg Schramm.

[A complete description of the tomato-canning industry in Italy is given in a bulletin issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce entitled "Canned-Tomato Industry in Italy; Special Agents Series No. 93." This bulletin is sold at 5 cents a copy by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington.]

AMERICAN TRADE WITH SOUTHERN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Aug. 20.]

The value of the total sea-borne trade of the Madras Presidency with all countries for the quarter ended June 30, 1915, according to official customhouse statistics, was \$28,263,076, of which \$19,301,984 represents exports and \$8,961,092 imports. The total trade with the United States for this period amounted to \$2,063,479, of which \$1,582,943 is the value of exports and \$480,536 that of imports. The general trade, as well as that with the United States, averaged about the same as in corresponding periods.

There was an increase in imports of metals as compared with previous quarters, showing a demand for pipes and tubes, iron and steel sheets and plates, steel of various sorts, and nails, rivets, etc., the total for all metals being \$120,619. In June, 26 motor cars valued at \$21,356 were imported, as compared with 18 cars valued at \$10,907 in April and 11 valued at \$8,005 in May. The imports of playing cards, \$15,198, continue to be an important item, while hardware and cutlery and scientific instruments are also to be reckoned among leading imports.

Values of Principal Articles Exported.

The customhouse statistics of exports to the United States vary somewhat from the exports invoiced at the consulate and on record at that office. The principal articles exported from all ports of the Madras Presidency, according to the customhouse returns, were: Pepper, 6,188,420 pounds, valued at \$568,279; tanned goat and sheep skins, \$400,567; raw skins, \$241,221; coconut oil, \$125,697; castor seeds, \$81,652; coir yarn, \$71,813; ginger, \$23,601; sandalwood, \$15,385; lemon-grass oil, \$15,069.

In the general trade of Madras and subordinate ports with all countries, cotton piece goods and linen are the principal items of importation, while hides and skins, seeds (principally groundnuts and castor seeds), cotton piece goods, and raw cotton are the principal articles of export.

BORING FOR OIL IN AUSTRALIA.

[Brisbane dispatch in Sydney Herald, of Aug. 27.]

It is probable that at an early date the oil produced from the shale deposits in the Gladstone district of Queensland will be available. The particular area on which the operations are being conducted is in the neighborhood of Lowmead, near Baffle Creek, in the Gladstone district. Bores are now being sunk for a company, with its headquarters in Sydney, which has leased the land, and at 173 feet in one bore a thick bed of shale was penetrated. An American company has offered to build a plant for recovering crude oil from shale.

CONDITION OF RUSSIAN COTTON CROP.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Aug. 26.]

According to the Statistical Department of the Administration of Agriculture in Turkestan, the condition of the cotton crops in that district is as follows:

In the Syr Daria district the sowing of cotton was rather late on account of the cold, rainy weather that prevailed during the latter part of March and the first half of April. The first cotton was sown on April 1, and there were only a few cases where it had to be resown. The damage done by insects, etc., was insignificant. No scarcity of water has been felt this year, and there was a sufficient number of laborers during the sowing period.

The general condition of the crops may be considered satisfactory. The area sown to cotton this year increased in consequence of reduced cultivation of cereals, principally wheat and barley, and in consequence of newly tilled land. The area under cotton cultivation in 1915 is 251,100 acres, instead of 218,700 acres sown in the preceding year.

Samarkand, Ferghana, and Transcaspien Districts.

In the Samarkand district the rainy period in April caused the sowing of cotton to be rather late. Part was sown in March, but in many cases it was necessary to have it sown over again. There was no scarcity of water for irrigating purposes, and hardly any damage was noted from insects. The condition of the crops is satisfactory. The advances of money on the future crop have not amounted to large sums.

In the Ferghana district the sowing took place at the usual time, beginning in the middle of March and being terminated by the end of April. In a few cases only the sowing had to be done over again. There was a sufficient supply of water for irrigating purposes, and there was no scarcity of labor. The general condition of the crops is very satisfactory and the development normal throughout the district.

The area of cotton plantations has increased almost everywhere, the greatest extension being noted in the Khokan and Skobelev territories, where the area increased by 20 per cent. The total area of cotton plantations in the Ferghana district must amount to 810,000 acres, against 764,100 acres in the preceding year. The advances of money on the future crop are issued at a reduced rate in comparison with last year.

In the Transcaspien district the earliest sowing took place on March 23, while the latest was finished by May 3. There were few cases where the sowing had to be done over. The general condition of the crops is satisfactory. Compared with last year, the area under cotton cultivation has increased by about 12 per cent throughout the district.

In the Khanate of Khiva the area of cotton plantations did not undergo any change. In Bokhara the area prepared for cotton sowing was about 30 per cent greater than that of the preceding year.

Estimating Russian Cotton Crop.

From data presented to the Cotton Committee this year's cotton crop in Central Asia was estimated at 1,228,000 bales of 500 pounds.

The Ministry of Ways of Communication has requested the Cotton Committee to state how many cars will be required to ship cotton for the requirements of the Petrograd and Moscow cotton-manufacturing districts. A list of the number of cars required for each month to April, 1916, has been presented to the ministry.

According to the administration of the Central Asia Railway, the 1914-15 cotton crop of Ferghana has been a record one and amounts to 594,000 bales gross weight of cleaned cotton. Per dessiatine (2.7 acres) it was 90 poods (2.4 bales) per acre of raw cotton, yielding a greater percentage of fiber than in the preceding year. In 1913-14 the average amount of raw cotton from which 1 pood (36.1128 pounds) of fiber was obtained was 3 poods 18 funts (124.6 pounds), while in 1914-15 it was 3 poods 15 funts (121.9 pounds).

In regard to quality, it is estimated that about 70 per cent will be of first and 5 per cent of second and third grades. In regard to the quantity of moisture obtained, the cotton of this crop may be considered normal.

The Ferghana cotton crop of the season 1914-15 is estimated at 18,000 bales more than the crop of the preceding year and 54,000 bales more than the crop of 1912-13. The value of the cotton crop of Ferghana is estimated by the exchange committee at 116,387,500 rubles (\$59,940,000 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble), which exceeds the value of the preceding crop by more than \$7,200,000.

OUTLOOK FOR SWEDISH COMMERCE WITH RUSSIA.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sweden, Sept. 2.]

Swedish merchants and manufacturers are turning their attention more and more to prospects of trade with Russia. Trade routes are being studied and it is hoped that a great share of the commerce, which is now finding its way from England and the United States to Russia by the way of Sweden, will continue to be sent through this country. It is proposed to create new lines of transportation as well as to improve those already in existence.

It is thought that a permanent line Immingham-Goteborg-Stockholm-Petrograd would appeal to shippers in both England and Russia. It would place the Russian farmers in direct connection with a great distributing center for dairy products in England, and would enable English business men and tourists to reach Russia by a fairly short and comfortable route. It is the intention of business people in Sweden not only by thorough organization to win and retain former markets in England, but also, by improving steamship connections with Russia, to make an energetic bid for the commerce of that country. This effort will be assisted by the probable tendency in Russia to import direct from Sweden, Great Britain, and the United States.

It is thought by Swedish manufacturers that there will be a future in Russia for farming machinery and chemical manure. It is expected that farming in Russia will be greatly extended and that there will be a large increase in the exports of grain.

BRITISH MARKET FOR WOOD-BLOCK PAVING.

[Weekly Bulletin of Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce.]

Wood-block paving is in general use in nearly all of the several hundred boroughs of the United Kingdom whose population is greater than 60,000. Its growing popularity is due to the fact that it shows a longer life under motor-bus traffic than any other smooth pavement that has yet been produced at equal expense, to the ease with which repairs may be made, and to the absence of dust and noise.

There are a few prominent cities, such as Glasgow, Dublin, Belfast, and Liverpool, where wood-block paving is not used except in front of hospitals and schools. In these cities granite sets are employed and their displacement by wood pavements is delayed because of the practice of shoeing draft horses with sharp calks, which tear up the wood blocks.

Redwood the Chief Material Used.

Many woods have been tried for pavements in the United Kingdom. Jarrah was introduced, but proved unsatisfactory, wearing and breaking off at the corners and edges and producing a very rutty pavement. Red gum from the United States likewise gave poor service. The use of oak was discontinued some 12 years ago on the ground of expense. Pitch pine from the United States was also tried, but it did not wear evenly and produced a rough pavement. Canadian white spruce was laid on the north side of Trafalgar Square in London 12 years ago with an 8-pound treatment of creosote per cubic foot and is still in excellent condition.

Without exception, the wood-block pavement laid in Great Britain now is Swedish and Russian redwood (*Pinus sylvestris*). The specifications issued by the municipal engineers throughout the country admit this wood and no other, the one exception being the specification for the borough of Westminster, London, which admits Canadian spruce, red pine, or Douglas fir.

Swedish redwood has three points in its favor—the price is satisfactory, its life is definitely known, and the paving companies handle it. In normal times Swedish and Russian redwood was delivered in 3 by 8 or 3 by 9 inch, 6 to 20 feet long, averaging 16 feet, dressed one side and one edge, for £10 10s. to £11 10s. per standard (\$51.10 to \$55.95 per 165 cubic feet) c. i. f. The price has risen during the war to £16 10s. (\$80.30). This timber, sawn into 4-inch blocks and given an 8 to 10 pound treatment of creosote, will make a pavement lasting in London 20 years under light traffic and 12 years under heavy traffic.

Important Position Held by Paving Companies.

As already stated, the municipal authorities when contracting for wood-block pavements specify redwood in nearly every case, and the paving companies do not handle any other kind of wood. The influence of the paving companies is all powerful in most of the municipalities when a change of wood is to be considered. Only a few important municipalities purchase blocks or lay pavements. Nearly all the paving is done by companies, which contract with the municipalities to manufacture the blocks, creosote them according to specifications, lay the pavement on the base prepared by the municipality,

and maintain it free of cost for an agreed annual charge per square yard for a stated term of years. The cost of this service ranges from 9s. (\$2.20) per square yard for a 4-inch block with an 8-pound treatment to 14s. (\$3.40) for a 5-inch block with a 12-pound treatment. The cost of laying is 2d. (4 cents) per square yard. The cost of maintenance, where the maintenance is undertaken by the municipality, is 10d. (20 cents) per square yard per year.

The companies engaged in this paving business are few in number and have a monopoly of the field. They have established their reputations on redwood, are acquainted with it, and are interested in its continued use. The city engineers are willing to try new material if it promises them a longer service or a lower initial cost. The four Canadian woods that could be introduced in the United Kingdom for paving purposes are Douglas fir, white spruce, jack pine, and red pine, but they can find a sale only on condition that the normal c. i. f. price to the paving companies is less than £11 (\$53.50) per standard for a well-manufactured sound grade, admitting tight knots not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, odd and even lengths accepted. The city engineers of Sheffield and Westminster have already signified their willingness to accept these woods if the price is lower than redwood. Other city engineers are willing to have a trial strip of pavement laid in the city at a reduced cost, or at least wish to be convinced that the new wood has already given satisfactory service in some municipality in the United Kingdom. There is no opportunity for the shipment of creosoted blocks. Creosote costs only 6 cents a gallon at the creosoting works in England.

Specifications Not Rigid.

Under the English specifications for blocks hearts are admitted; also knots, unless loose or on the upper end of the block, and are sometimes accepted even then. There is no rigid adherence to any rule regarding the rate of growth. The Russian redwood is preferred to the Swedish because it is slower growing and therefore harder, but blocks are admitted with rings 6 or even 4 to the inch. There is no rigid exclusion of sapwood, some specifications admitting as much as 18 per cent of saps.

The quantity of timber used by Great Britain for paving in 1913 was approximately 60,000,000 feet.

[The use of wood blocks for paving in England was discussed in *Daily Consular and Trade Reports* for May 29, 1908, May 21, 1910, and Dec. 13, 1912.]

SWEDISH BOTTLE INDUSTRY AND PROHIBITION LAW.

[Chargé d'Affaires Jefferson Caffery, American Legation, Stockholm, Sept. 3.]

With reference to the proposal that has been made that the manufacture and sale of brandy and beer be prohibited the United Swedish Bottle Glassworks have sent a petition to the King stating that if this prohibition law is passed it will have very serious effects on the bottle industry.

About 1,000 workmen are employed in this industry. The principal customers of the bottle manufacturers are the brandy companies and breweries. The prohibition law would stop the manufacture of glass bottles in Sweden, and most of these workmen would be left without employment.

PROSPEROUS FOREIGN COMPANIES.

The annual reports of foreign companies are beginning to appear and, as usual, disclose many interesting facts concerning the past year's business. A busy season is indicated in the report of the Steel Company of Scotland for the 12 months ended July 15. The output has been so much in excess of the previous year that the profit is more than doubled, and the amount available is nearly £30,000 (\$145,995) more than in the very good year of 1912-13. The ordinary shareholders benefit to the extent of 7½ per cent, against 5 per cent last year, whilst the reserve is strengthened by the addition of £40,000 (\$194,660), making the account £265,660 (\$1,289,625). The year's working, compared with the two previous years, is shown in the following table [in which the amounts have been converted to American dollars at the rate of \$4.8665 to the pound sterling]:

Items.	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
Profit.....	\$535,972	\$302,307	\$656,934
Brought forward.....	92,668	99,442	102,391
Available.....	628,640	401,749	759,325
Special expenditure and depreciation.....	154,073	136,272	181,793
To reserve fund.....	145,995	48,665	194,660
Ordinary dividend.....	229,130	114,421	165,169
War allowance.....			16,755
Carried forward.....	99,442	102,391	200,843

A dividend of 10 per cent was paid both for 1912-13 and 1911-12. The higher prices realized the last 12 months, the directors say, were offset by the increased wages and cost of raw materials.

Danish Live Stock and Shipping and Argentine Meat Industries.

A Copenhagen report states that at present Denmark is decidedly prosperous. The great national industry, cattle breeding, has had a remarkably good year, and that big profits have been made is shown clearly by the balance sheets issued by the joint stock companies engaged in this business; and the prices obtained for milk, butter, and cheese have been exceptionally remunerative. The shipping industry has naturally benefited by the shortage of tonnage experienced everywhere, and the high freight charges which have prevailed have resulted in quite abnormal profits being made. One of the smaller companies, the "Torm," has just declared an interim dividend of 40 per cent; and though the balance sheets of the larger companies, such as the Scandinavian-American Line, the East Asiatic Co., and the Danish-Russian Co., have not yet been issued, it is known that large profits have been made. Messages received yesterday indicate fresh enterprise on the part of the strong Asiatic Co., which intends to replace 10 of its 7,500-ton steamers with motor-driven vessels and float a new company to run the steamers.

For the five years to 1911-12 (when the accounts were not, as at present, made up to the end of the calendar year) the Smithfield & Argentine Meat Co. paid dividends, free of income tax, of 10 per cent, with the exception of the year 1910-11, for which there was no distribution at all. Afterwards the company experienced less favorable times, and for 1912 only 5 per cent was paid, and at December 31, 1913, there was a debit balance of £20,566 (\$100,084), after deducting the amount standing at credit of general reserve, £27,258 (\$132,651). The surplus arising from valuation of land called the

land-reserve account, which was held in suspense, amounted to £33,423 (\$162,653), and there was a reserve for depreciation, etc., of £14,473 (\$70,433). Owing, doubtless, to improved business through the increased requirements arising from the war, the company has done better in the current year, for the directors are able to announce an interim distribution of 5 per cent actual, or at the rate of 10 per cent per annum.

WHITE SHOES MUCH WORN IN KARACHI.

[Consul James Oliver Laing, Karachi, India, Aug. 9.]

Owing to the war, the local stocks of British-made boots and shoes are becoming depleted and little machinery exists here for the manufacture of footwear of that type. I can not speak for other consular districts in India, but the Karachi district has a rather large European population which wears imported boots and shoes, and the district does not make them in quantity.

The chief demand is for boots and shoes suitable for a warm climate and for sport. In most parts of this district white canvas and white leather low shoes are worn not only for tennis and golf but for business. The temperature is high for periods ranging from six to eight or nine months in the year. These white shoes are usually without heels and are laced. Some high white shoes are sold, but one usually sees low shoes.

The white canvas shoes sold here are of English make. They are cheaper than American-made white shoes, but not so good. The soles are almost always of rubber, but some low white canvas shoes with braided sewn jute soles have been introduced recently. It is too soon to get a verdict from wearers or dealers as to whether they will be a success. There are also both low and high canvas and leather shoes here with soles of belting. These shoes are a little more expensive, but the soles outlast the tops.

Rubber Soles—Pumps and Sporting Shoes.

The rubber soles, so far as I have seen, are red. Dealers say that white rubber soles are not in demand here, as they cost more. I have personally tested the low canvas shoes with red rubber soles sold locally and compared them with several pairs of American low canvas shoes with white rubber soles that I brought from the United States. The American shoes cost me about 50 cents more a pair at retail in New York than the British-made shoes in Karachi and lasted more than twice as long under identical conditions of wear. The American shoes were of better shape and held their shape better.

There is also a sale for men's pumps. It is the almost universal custom here to dress for dinner, and these pumps are worn. They are usually of patent leather. In purely sporting shoes the leather football boot has the largest sale. It has the customary cleats of the American football shoe and is usually white, but sometimes tan or of a bluish tinge. American boots and shoes are acknowledged by dealers to be of better quality, and are often copied by small local makers.

The Karachi consulate would like to have American shoe catalogues and price lists to place on file.

[The addresses of five Karachi dealers in boots and shoes may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 66164.]

AMERICAN COTTON BAGS FOR CHILEAN NITRATE.

[Commercial Attaché Verne L. Havens, Santiago, Chile, Aug. 13.]

With respect to the possibility of substituting American cotton bags for those made of East India jute or burlap as containers for nitrates, investigation has indicated that much difficulty is experienced by laborers in loading nitrate inclosed in cotton. This is due to the fact that there are no docks where ships might tie up at nitrate ports, and the bags are handled several times before being placed aboard. The weight is about 200 pounds, which is too much for a man to lift, particularly in a rocking boat. He therefore uses a hook, which injures the bag and causes greater damage to one of cotton than to one of burlap. In any effort to facilitate the sale of American cotton bags this circumstance must be taken into consideration.

When the bag is filled and the top sewed up, two ears are left to wrap the string around, and it has been noted that the laborers take hold of these ears with their hands on the top of the bag and their partners use the hook on the bottom. If cotton bags could be made with ears on the bottom, both men could use their hands freely and the hook would not be necessary. It would also be easier for them, since their arms would be spread apart by the width of the bag, which is about equivalent to the width of one's body.

Securing Cooperation of Nitrate Producers.

To accomplish the desired end the cooperation of the nitrate producers is necessary, because they are the purchasers of the bags and could instruct their laborers to load the double-eared bags without hooks. It has occurred to the writer that this idea would be materially furthered if such a concern as the du Pont Nitrate Co. were to have a thousand bags made with the ear on the bag forming a part of the cloth on the bottom and were, as an experiment, to send them to Chile and return nitrate to the United States in them.

It is reported that the Delaware Oficina alone produced 46,000 Spanish quintals (Spanish quintal=101.41 pounds), using 23,000 bags, during the month of July. The total production of the month for the whole country required 1,500,000 bags.

FRENCH COAL OUTPUT IN 1914.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Sept. 10.]

French coal production in 1914 amounted to 29,786,505 metric tons, compared with 40,843,618 tons in 1913. The coal output for the first half of 1914 amounted to more than half of the total production for the year 1913. The detailed figures for the coal-mining regions of France are as follows for 1913 and 1914:

Coal basins.	1913	1914	Coal basins.	1913	1914
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Nord and Pas-de-Calais...	27,389,307	17,800,308	Saone-et-Loire	2,210,091	2,048,200
Loire and Haute-Loire...	3,966,618	3,487,644	Bouches-du-Rhone	694,054	619,313
Gard and Herault	2,332,091	2,045,378	All other	1,913,991	1,657,845
Tarn and Aveyron	1,974,804	1,810,466			
Isere	362,662	317,351	Total	40,843,618	29,786,505

In 1914 France imported from Great Britain 10,759,058 tons of coal, 18,883 tons of coke, and 116,549 tons of manufactured fuel (agglomérés).

JUTE BAGS FOR RUSSIA.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Aug. 25.]

It is reported that 7,000,000 bags (approximately 5,040 short tons in weight) have accumulated in the port of Vladivostok, great difficulty being experienced in forwarding them to their places of destination, although they are urgently required for this season's harvest and for the packing of sugar, which will begin in September. The Council of Congresses of Representatives of Industry and Trade and the Central War Committee have been discussing this congestion and also the possibility of supplying the required amount of bags by means of the domestic industry. It has been ascertained that the annual production of bags in Russia reaches 100,000,000 pieces. In consequence of the scarcity of raw jute and the increased consumption of hemp and flax fiber for the requirements of the army, a number of manufacturing concerns have limited their production of bags, while others have discontinued operations. Consequently the price of bags has already increased by almost 100 per cent and still shows a tendency to rise, while the quality has become inferior.

It has been estimated that the present requirements reach the figure of 200,000,000 bags. Besides the 7,000,000 bags at the port of Vladivostok there are shipments in Sweden and at Archangel which can not be forwarded for want of transportation facilities. The question of ordering a supply of bags in India has been left open until the quantity of bags that can be produced in the country is definitely ascertained.

BUREAU PLANS POPULAR PUBLICATIONS.

A circular on "Measurements for the household" that has been issued by the United States Bureau of Standards is an advance in the bureau's work in the direction of making results available to the people who have little or no technical training. This book on measurements gives accurate data regarding a great variety of subjects that arise in the daily routine of the home, presenting a simple account of the kinds of measurements and their practical use, under the headings of commodities, heat, light, water, atmospheric humidity, density of liquids, atmospheric pressure, time, etc.

It is proposed to make future circulars of this type popular in character. The bureau states that it believes that this especially useful class of work can be quite largely expanded. Copies of "Measurements for the household" may be obtained free by interested persons upon application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

JAPANESE STATION IMPROVEMENTS IN MANCHURIA.

[Consul General P. S. Heintzleman, Mukden, China, Aug. 25.]

A subterranean passageway leading from the train platform to the station building is being constructed at the South Manchuria Railway Station, Mukden, in order to forestall accidents in the railway yard, where there is a constant movement of rolling stock. The work is expected to require about \$10,000 and will consume about three months. Already the waiting room for passengers to and from the Peking-Mukden (Chinese) line has been removed 80 yards southward preparatory to the new work.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Buoy, No. 2683.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until October 25, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at tidewater, New York Harbor, one type C Pintsch gas buoy, complete, charged with Pintsch gas. Further information may be had on application to the lighthouse inspector.

Construction work, No. 2684.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 8, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of a two-story and basement stone and brick-faced building for the United States post office at Sidney, Ohio. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at Sidney or at the Washington office.

Medical supplies, No. 2685.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York City, until October 18, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the depot 24 restraint apparatuses.

Construction work, No. 2686.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 12, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at Salamanca, N. Y. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site or at the Washington office.

Construction work, No. 2687.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 30, 1915, for one shell house at the Naval Magazine, Norfolk, Va. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the Commandant of the Navy Yard at Norfolk.

Excavation work, No. 2688.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Grand Junction, Colo., until November 4, 1915, for about 340,000 yards of canal excavation. The work is situated in the vicinity of Loma and Mack, Colo. Further information may be had on application to the United States Reclamation Service, Grand Junction, Colo.; Denver, Colo.; or Washington, D. C.

Dredging, No. 2689.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 16, 1915, for dredging at the Naval Station, New London, Conn. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Washington office or the naval station named.

Books, etc., No. 2690.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York City, until October 13, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the depot 129 copies of Howell's (sixth edition) Physiology; 71 copies of John Shaw Billing's "A Memoir," Garrison; 75 order pads; and various grades of printing paper.

Water tank and tower, No. 2691.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 30, 1915, for a 250,000-gallon steel water tank and tower at the Naval Proving Ground, Indianhead, Md. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Washington office.

Construction work, No. 2692.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 16, 1915, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the United States post office and courthouse at Huntington, W. Va. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the custodian at Huntington or at the Washington office.

Hoists, No. 2693.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., until November 1, 1915, for furnishing 10 hoists for radial gates, New Jackson Lake Dam. Further information may be had on application to the Washington office.

Cranes, No. 2694.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1915, for furnishing two shipbuilding cranes at the navy yard, Charleston, S. C. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Washington office, or to the commandant of the navy yard mentioned.

Hydraulic cylinders, No. 2695.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1915, for furnishing a set of six cast steel hydraulic operating cylinders and appurtenances for slide gates for Keechelus Dam, Yakima Project, Wash., and a duplicate set for Sherburne Lakes Dam, Milk River Project, Mont. Further information may be had on application to the Washington office.

SUCCESS OF AMERICAN WOODS IN GREECE.

[Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Sept. 8; supplementing review in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 17, 1915.]

American lumber and barrel staves both began to arrive on this market some time since, and both are proving eminently satisfactory to the local trade. Both articles are used thus far chiefly in construction of cases and barrels for export of currants, replacing similar articles formerly brought to the market from Austria.

The American barrel stave proves distinctly superior to the Austrian in that it is at once of lighter wood and better cooperage. By virtue of its lighter weight it pays slightly more than half the duty paid on the Austrian stave, duty on all woods entering Greece being based on weight. By virtue of its better cooperage, it calls for much less work in the local cooper's hands, and when put up makes a distinctly better barrel. Also on account of the barrel's lighter weight it gives an advantage to the exporter when his export currants pass through the local customs.

The lumber which has thus far arrived is a white spruce. It proves on actual test to be more easily and satisfactorily worked into currant cases than the Austrian, and in addition makes a stronger container without any addition to the weight of the case. Both barrels and cases made of American wood present a better appearance than any ever turned out on this market before.

A wire-drag examination of the East River, from Lawrence Point to Execution Rocks, will be made this fall by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey to determine whether or not the river channel is free from obstructions that have not been disclosed previously and to obtain full information concerning any dangers that may be found.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the file number given.

X-ray machines, No. 18652.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a doctor in his district desires to receive catalogues and prices of X-ray machines. Prices, if possible, should be given c. i. f. Palermo. Correspondence should be in Italian.

Bristles for brushes, No. 18653.—A firm in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer that it desires to receive quotations on bristles for brushes.

Matchmaking chemicals, No. 18654.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a firm is in the market for matchmaking chemicals, and it is particularly anxious to hear from firms handling potash, "beretta," and "estanla."

Fly paper, No. 18655.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm in Canada desires names and addresses of manufacturers of fly paper, sticky reels, fly pads, pyramids, and similar articles for catching flies.

Chemicals, tools, hosiery, etc., No. 18656.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a representative of a firm in India is making a visit to this country to secure an agency from American manufacturers of chemicals, tools, hosiery for women and children, and glass chimney lamps.

Canned goods, No. 18657.—A letter to the Bureau from a commercial agent states that a firm in the Netherlands is interested in communicating with leading packers and canners on the Pacific coast.

Stationery, No. 18658.—A commercial attaché of the department informs the Bureau that a firm in France is desirous of obtaining tubes made of ebonite, celluloid, or vulcanite. The tube is a part of an apparatus for filling fountain pens.

General representation, No. 18659.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a man wishes to act as agent in Russia for American manufacturers. No particular line of goods is mentioned. Reference furnished.

Nails, No. 18660.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a company in his district desires to communicate with firms dealing in iron, with a view to purchasing same for nails. Iron to be in rods $5\frac{1}{2}$ millimeters. Quotations c. i. f. Messina are requested. Cash against documents. References given.

Underwear and hosiery, No. 18661.—A report from an American consul states that a business man in Italy desires to receive catalogues and quotations on silk underwear and hosiery for women. Quotations c. i. f. Palermo, if possible. Correspondence may be in English.

Machinery, No. 18662.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a company desires to receive full information in regard to machinery for an ice plant, an aerated water factory, and a mill for extracting oil from copra and sim sim (sesame). All the machinery to be driven by electric power generated by means of oil engines, which are also to be purchased. Detailed correspondence is solicited and not catalogues.

Ovens, No. 18663.—A business man in Germany desires to establish commercial relations with American firms manufacturing incubators using coal ovens large enough to hold several thousand eggs. Catalogues and price lists are solicited. Correspondence may be in English.

Paper, cloth, etc., No. 18664.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in Greece desires to represent American manufacturers of automobiles and accessories, wool and cotton cloth, nails for shoes and horseshoes, and paper, etc. There is a demand just now for 4,000 kilos of paper, samples of which have been forwarded, and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. Quotations c. i. f. Piraeus, including 5 per cent commission, are requested. (Refer to File No. 67.)

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 237 Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 9 1915

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SWISS EXPOSITION OF TOYS OPENED.

The Legation of Switzerland in Washington has received a cablegram from the Government at Berne that the Swiss Exposition of Toys has just been opened at Zurich. It is under the auspices of the Swiss Foreign Trade Bureau, Borsenstrasse 10, Zurich, the formation of which was described in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for September 16, 1915. The Legation suggests that American firms interested should promptly delegate representatives to visit the exposition, as orders might thus be executed in time for the Christmas trade.

STEAMER TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS ARTICLES.

The following is a summary of rulings made by the United States Steamboat-Inspection Service during September, 1915, relating to transportation of certain articles on steam vessels carrying passengers:

Nujol, an article manufactured by the Standard Oil Company, does not come within the prohibitions of section 4472, Revised Statutes.

Bush's monibak brilliant and *Bush's monibak metal polish* may be transported on steamers carrying passengers and may be used as stores on passenger or pleasure steamers.

Ruling of August 17, 1915, published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* No. 211, to the effect that *unhydrated or quick lime* shall not under any conditions be transported on steamers carrying passengers, supercedes the bureau's ruling of November 2, 1914, in which it was stated that *quick lime* may be transported on steamers carrying passengers provided that due care is taken to protect it from moisture.

Amorphous or red phosphorus may be transported in tins in cases carried on deck of steamers carrying passengers.

Parrot metal polish may be transported on steamers carrying passengers under the same conditions as refined petroleum, but it shall not be used as stores on passenger or pleasure steamers.

AUSTRALIA'S INCOME-TAX LAW.

[Commercial Attaché Wm. C. Downs, Melbourne, Aug. 27.]

A study of the proposed Federal income tax bill presented to Parliament August 18 reveals the fact that certain of its provisions may affect the methods of American firms doing business in Australia. I have discussed the subject with American houses located here and with representatives of American houses, all of whom are in doubt as to what bearing these provisions would have upon their business and upon the business of their principals in the United States. Attention is called particularly to section 14 of the act, reading:

(i) In the case of a person selling goods in Australia on account of a person not resident in Australia, or on account of a company not registered in Australia, the principal shall be deemed to have derived from such a sale a taxable income equal to £5 per centum upon the price at which the goods were sold.

Trading Profit Assumed—Agent Responsible for Tax.

It appears to me, and also is the opinion of merchants consulted, that under this clause any manufacturer or merchant consigning goods to Australia or carrying a stock of goods in Australia to be sold for his account would be deemed to have drawn a profit of 5 per cent and would be liable for a tax upon that assumed profit even if the goods were sold at a loss.

For the collection of this tax it is provided in section 48: "Every company which carries on business in Australia shall at all times be represented by a person residing in Australia, duly appointed by the company or by its duly authorized agent or attorney." Section 14, above referred to, provides that: "The person selling the goods shall be assessable on the taxable income as the agent for the principal and shall be personally liable for the payment of the tax." The foregoing provisions, it will be seen, require the registration of a duly authorized representative and hold this representative responsible for the tax.

Classes of Houses Affected by the Act.

Some of the classes of houses which might be affected by the act are the following:

1. American companies doing business in Australia through an Australian company controlled by the American company.

2. American commission houses represented by their own branch houses—(a) when the Australian branches do simply an indent business, the goods being shipped and invoiced by the American house and collections made by the American house; (b) when goods are invoiced to third parties but collections made by the Australian branch; (c) when goods are received on consignment, either from manufacturers or from the American house, and sold by the Australian house for the account of the consignors.

3. Commission houses represented by local agents who are not partners in the home house, but work purely on commission or salary.

4. American manufacturers represented by their own branch houses, not carrying stocks in Australia but invoicing from the home office—(a) when collections are made by the home office or (b) by the branch office.

5. American manufacturers represented by local agents not branches—(a) when these agents simply take indent orders to be executed and financed by the manufacturers direct to third parties; (b) when the agents make collections; or (c) when the agents carry a certain amount of stock to be sold to satisfy prompt requirements.

6. American manufacturers or merchants who consign goods to agents or merchants in Australia to be sold for their account.

7. American manufacturers who are represented by traveling salesmen who are not residents of Australia, the manufacturers executing the orders taken by such salesmen direct to Australian merchants.

American Vessels Come Within Bill's Provisions.

Section 21 of the act also assumes a profit of 5 per cent to have been earned upon freights, passengers, live stock, mails, or goods carried from Australia by ships not owned in Australia, which assumed profit would be taxable under the bill. This will probably affect the many American vessels that are at present arriving in Australia with cargo from the Pacific coast and generally taking return cargo from Australia.

[A copy of the bill may be examined at the Washington office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file No. 682.]

JUTE-MARKET CONDITIONS.

The receipt of the final forecast of the Indian jute crop, according to the Glasgow Herald of September 22, had no effect on the Dundee (Scotland) market one way or the other. The final estimate places the current season's acreage in India at 2,377,000, against 3,358,737 acres last year; and the yield at 7,428,733 bales (of 400 pounds), against 10,531,505 bales. The yield is 3.13 bales per acre, which is in keeping with the result last season, showing that the shortage in India's production this year is due to reduction in the area cultivated.

Though the forecast is so very much reduced Dundee does not regard the situation with anxiety, and in the matter of demand there is little or nothing passing in that market at present. The rate for first marks was \$131.40 for September shipment. With the carry-over from last season and larger-than-usual stocks both in Calcutta and in Dundee at the commencement of the season, a plentiful supply of the fiber is anticipated for the world's consumption.

The last week in September yarns were steady but quiet in Dundee at 91 cents for common 8-pound cops prompt, and at 89 cents for November-December. Hessians were quotably steady, but where a little business was being done there were indications of the acceptance of a trifle less, and this was the case in connection with lightweights. Hessians were obtainable at 9 cents for 10½-ounce 40-inch, and at 7.8 cents for 8-ounce.

CHILEAN FIRE COMPANIES WANT MAGAZINES.

[Consul David J. D. Myers, Punta Arenas, Aug. 27.]

El Secretario de Compania No. 1 de Bomberos, Punta Arenas, Magallanes, Chile, asks for the names and addresses of news and trade papers, illustrated magazines, etc., published in the United States, with a view to subscribing for some of them for the reading room and library of the various companies.

Volunteer fire companies in South America are generally social organizations as well as fire companies. They are in the nature of a club equipped with libraries, reading and billiard rooms, bar, etc., the membership consisting of well-known business men of the community. Trade papers filed at the reading rooms of the fire companies would reach a desirable class of business people.

TO ADVISE BUSINESS MEN IN EXPORT CAMPAIGN.

A tour of the United States has been begun by the export-trade adviser of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in an educational campaign conducted by the Bureau, for the purpose of laying before the manufacturers, business men, and commercial organizations of the country practical and concrete information relative to the export business and extension of foreign trade.

It has been learned that many manufacturers who would like to enter these markets abroad, especially in Central and South America, have found obstacles in the lack of knowledge as to where there are specific opportunities, as to prevailing market conditions, business methods in the various countries, proper methods of making out the consular invoices, foreign customs regulations and trade-mark laws, shipping routes, and sources of credit information. The Bureau desires to place at the command of American manufacturers and exporters the great fund of practical information that has been collected through the medium of commercial attachés, consular officers, and commercial agents resident in foreign countries. These officials report the names and addresses of reliable firms which are in the market for American goods. Their statements on every phase of commercial life and activity in the countries to which they have been sent are made available through the Bureau.

The tour to be made by the export trade adviser, Special Agent Stanley H. Rose, will take him through New York State and the Middle West, reaching Lincoln, Nebr., in the middle of November. Among the places to be visited are New York City, Niagara, Buffalo, Rochester, Fairmont, W. Va., Indianapolis, Chicago, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Grand Rapids, and Detroit, Mich., Toledo, Springfield, and Columbus, Ohio. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has received many letters from business firms, chambers of commerce, and other organizations throughout the United States, asking that their cities be included in the itinerary of Mr. Rose. An effort will be made to have him visit as many cities as possible before the end of the year.

The Bureau's special agent will have with him a traveling library containing the principal publications of value to the beginner in export trade, as well as statistics of imports and exports of the United States and the principal countries of the world. He expects to make his headquarters at the offices of the commercial organizations of the various cities that he visits. He will also assist in creating a wider acquaintance with the commercial clearing houses the Bureau has established in the leading commercial centers of the United States.

BUREAU OF STANDARDS TESTS TRACK SCALES.

The testing of track scales in Tennessee has been completed by the United States Bureau of Standards with the testing of six scales at Knoxville. A scale at Alexandria, Va., was tested during the same tour, while the representatives of the bureau were en route to Washington. The test weights were conveyed to the bureau for calibration and individual reports on the track scales tested in Tennessee were sent to that State.

RULING ON SWEETENER IN WINE HELD IN ABEYANCE.

[California Fruit News, Oct. 2.]

The Internal Revenue Office has reversed a recent ruling inhibiting the use of condensed grape must for purposes other than to sweeten the wines to which it is added. Joseph J. Scott, collector of internal revenue, says in the new order issued:

Until other instructions are issued wine makers, gaugers, etc., should see to it that the wines to which have been added sweetened grape must prior to, or during, fermentation, are especially marked for future identification and kept apart from other wines. The attention of wine makers, gaugers, and others is called to the provision contained on page 17, regulation No. 28, of May 14, 1913, governing the storage and control of condensed must and other sweetening agents. There must be strict adherence to these regulations.

The Lodi Sentinel, of California, reported in a recent issue that Lodi wineries had installed machines to make the sirup, which was destined to cut down the cost of wine making. Grapes testing 22 per cent will produce 11 per cent alcohol, making it necessary to add 9 per cent of alcohol to bring the wine up to the standard of 20 per cent. What the wineries proposed to do was to bring the sugar test up to 30 by the addition of sirup, which would produce 15 per cent alcohol, making it necessary to add but 5 per cent alcohol upon which they would have to pay the 55-cent tax.

Now that the Internal Revenue Office has given a favorable ruling in this connection, there will be a great saving effected.

The action of the Internal Revenue Office in Washington, restoring the right to use condensed grape must in proper quantities to bring the wine up to a commercial standard, has the effect of holding the entire matter in abeyance, and a final decision will be made after full consideration by the Commissioner. It is unlikely that when this decision is made any tax will be imposed on the makers of those wines that have been ordered to be marked for future identification, in relation to the additional spirits that may have been produced by the use of sweetened grape must. Any change that might be ordered would apply to wines produced subsequent to the time the ruling may be made. The local collector's order for the segregation of such wines is to be regarded as a precaution intended to meet any possible action in interpreting the law.

BUSINESS CONVENTIONS AT FORT WORTH.

Announcement comes from the Fort Worth (Tex.) Chamber of Commerce of the following conventions at Fort Worth, in the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium, on dates named:

State Association Transportation and Car Accountant Officers, October 15, 1915.

Local Telephone Owners' Association of Texas, October 27 and 28, 1915.

Texas Ice Cream Manufacturers' Association, November, 1915; days to be fixed.

The Passenger and Ticket Association of Texas, January 15, 1916.

Texas Liquor and Malt Dealers' Association, March 14, 15, and 16, 1916.

Texas Pharmaceutical Association, May 16, 17, and 18, 1916. At same time the State Board of Pharmacy, which is the examining board under the Texas laws to determine the eligibility of pharmacists to practice in Texas, will be in session.

Texas Poster Advertisers' Association, June, 1916; dates to be fixed.

BOOK PRINTED IN GREEK TO ADVERTISE PRODUCT.

A German manufacturer of fertilizers, in advertising his goods in Trebizond, Turkey, has published a translation into Greek of a large pamphlet entitled "Agricultural Studies: Application of Chemical Fertilizers." The book is illustrated with numerous views, some taken at the phosphate works in Hamburg, and others in the country districts, where products of fertilized fields are shown, and it is circulated among the many Greeks in that part of Turkey who are interested in agriculture and in some instances are landholders.

The American consul at Trebizond, Oscar S. Heizer, in making a report on this publication, says that the agent of the phosphate company sent a commercial traveler to Trebizond, to select a local agent and give him an exclusive agency, and advanced the necessary funds to cover expenses of translation and printing of the pamphlet, for the illustrations of which he furnished the plates.

BOSTON GETS NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO LONDON.

[Prepared in Boston office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

The Cunard Line recently announced the inauguration of a new service between Boston and London, with a sailing every three weeks. The first sailing will take place on October 20. The steamer *Headley*, a new vessel of about 5,000 tons, has been chartered by the company for this work. It will be followed in November by the *Tronto*.

The company has maintained a service between Boston and Liverpool for years, with an occasional sailing to London. These London sailings have been so successful that a regular service was decided upon. This will be the second regular line to sail between Boston and London, the Leyland Line having such a service every two weeks.

CHANGES IN AGENTS AT BRANCH OFFICES.

Commercial Agent F. L. Roberts, in charge of the Boston branch office of this Bureau, has resigned, and will direct the foreign-trade work of the Chamber of Commerce of Cleveland, Ohio, being in charge of the cooperative branch office recently established there by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Commercial Agent W. A. Graham Clark, at Atlanta, Ga., will take Mr. Roberts's place at Boston and Mr. W. L. Fairbanks, from the office of the Bureau at Washington, D. C., is to be placed in charge of the Atlanta office.

PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF RUSSIAN FUR EMBARGO.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Aug. 30, 1915.]

The drop in the prices of karakul threaten many firms with bankruptcy, and as these exporting firms are closely connected with the Moscow commercial market, their insolvency would have a serious effect. The Minister of Trade and Industry desires to introduce new measures as soon as possible in order that they may be in force at the time of the Nizhny Fair, and is negotiating this matter with the Minister of Finance.

NICARAGUAN COFFEE EXPORTS.

[Consul Harold D. Clum, Corinto, Aug. 30.]

The following table, compiled from statistics furnished by the Collector General of Customs at Managua, show the quantities and value of the coffee exported from Nicaragua to various countries during the first six months of this year and the corresponding period in 1914. Quantities are in pounds (net weight) and values in United States currency:

Exported to—	1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
United States.....	880,339	\$85,888	5,902,819	\$622,656
France.....	10,720,758	1,075,090	5,713,091	553,627
Germany.....	5,076,729	525,493		
United Kingdom.....	1,541,676	155,756	3,713,385	369,406
Italy.....	1,618,406	161,272	2,952,559	250,637
Austria-Hungary.....	1,051,680	103,936		
Holland.....	268,227	26,535	399,313	42,163
Denmark.....			152,422	15,003
Belgium.....	47,284	4,430		
Spain.....	11,865	1,196	132,342	12,407
Sweden.....	25,404	2,678	76,202	7,151
Norway.....	19,143	1,916		
Panama.....	1,673	232	698	66
Chile.....	608	61	608	54
Total.....	21,264,002	2,144,432	19,043,549	1,873,170

In 1914, 93 per cent of the total amount of coffee exported from Nicaragua left the country before the end of June, and it may be assumed that the shipments of the first six months of 1915 will prove to bear about the same relation to this year's exports. The most striking, though not unexpected, feature of the 1915 figures is the total absence of direct exports to Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Belgium.

The total exports of coffee were 2,210,543 pounds less (representing a decrease of \$271,262 in value) than in the corresponding period in 1914, a loss of 10.4 per cent in quantity and 12.6 per cent in value. The United States took 33.2 per cent of the total in point of value, while France (which is usually the principal market for Nicaraguan coffee) purchased 29.5 per cent, as compared with 50.1 per cent in the first half of 1914; the United Kingdom, 19.7 per cent; Italy, 13.3 per cent; and other European countries, 4.1 per cent. As the figures show, the crop marketed in 1915 was a short one and prices were low. According to present indications, the 1915-16 crop will be considerably larger than those of 1913-14 and 1914-15, being variously estimated at from 23,000,000 to 25,000,000 pounds.

CORRECT ADDRESSES OF CONSULAR OFFICERS.

[Consul M. B. Kirk, Orillia, Canada, Sept. 25.]

It is suggested to those American exporters who send circular letters and catalogues to consular officers that before mailing these they obtain the latest revised consular list. The Orillia consulate is still receiving letters and catalogues from various American exporters addressed to the consular agency at Midland, which office has been discontinued for over one year. A small sum might be saved in postage.

WHITE BREAD FOR TRIESTE.

[Consul Ralph C. Busser, Trieste, Austria, Aug. 27.]

According to a communication of the Provisioning Committee for Trieste, the city is now to be provided with white bread. As the old crop flour with which maize (corn) was mixed in the production of bread, is now exhausted, from Sunday, August 29, 1915, and onward pure wheat flour alone is to be used in the baking of bread. This bread will be produced under the control of the provisioning committee and retailed at 60 hellers (12 cents) per kilo (2½ pounds). In order to save time in the distribution, the bread will be sold by the loaf of 1 kilo and not by measured weight, though the buyers may control the weight of the loaves upon the scales. Overweight of a loaf is not to be charged, but if a buyer purchase a quantity of loaves, then the sale shall be upon the basis of weight.

NEW MONOGRAPHS FROM BUREAU OF MINES.

The following new publications have been issued by the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C., which will furnish copies on application:

Bulletin 101: Abstracts of current decisions on mines and mining; October, 1914, to April, 1915; 138 pp.

Technical Paper 97: Saving fuel in heating a house; 35 pp., 3 figs.

Technical Paper 104: Analysis of natural gas and illuminating gas by fractional distillation at low temperatures and pressures; 41 pp., 7 figs.

Technical Paper 111: Safety in stone quarrying; 48 pp., 5 pls., 4 figs.

Technical Paper 115: Inflammability of mixtures of gasoline vapor and air; 18 pp., 2 figs.

Technical Paper 120: A bibliography of the chemistry of gas manufacture; 29 pp.

OIL REFINERY IN DUTCH WEST INDIES.

[Consul H. C. von Struve, Curacao, Sept. 10.]

Referring to the construction in Curacao of an oil refinery (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 6, 1915), the purchase of the property has now been completed, the manager of the company is now here, surveying has begun, and a number of people have been engaged locally and others are on their way from Holland. It seems, therefore, that the construction of the refinery is assured.

The opening of this industry will exercise a considerable influence on the shipping at this port and will doubtless contribute materially to the prosperity of this island.

Italy's Foreign Trade in August.

Italy's foreign trade during August, 1915, had a total value of \$75,820,918, or \$27,044,511 greater than in the corresponding month of 1914; imports amounted to \$44,974,693, a gain of \$12,379,213, and exports \$30,846,225, an increase of \$14,665,298. Consul General David F. Wilber, of Genoa, reports that the chief articles contributing to the gain in imports were raw cotton, raw hides, oats, wool and wool waste, fresh and preserved meat, elastic gum, copper, jute, greases, lead, sodium nitrate, and lumber, the last item amounting to over \$1,000,000. More than two-thirds of the increase in exports occurred in cotton and silk fabrics, silk, and silk waste.

BANKING SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Vice Consul John W. Dye, Cape Town, Aug. 27.]

The outstanding features of the South African banking situation are increased deposits and note circulation, and decreased loans, resulting in a plethora of funds.

The statistics of the five banks operating in South Africa show marked changes during the half year ended June 30, 1915. The following table summarizes the position within the Union as at June and December:

	December, 1914.	June, 1915.
Note circulation.....	\$11,487,928	\$12,613,090
Fixed deposits.....	77,020,448	85,497,913
Floating deposits.....	95,325,478	109,215,671
Coin reserves.....	28,414,647	31,010,268
Advances, etc.....	141,642,913	135,817,246
Paid-up capital.....	25,081,382	26,205,283
Reserve funds.....	14,365,416	13,535,183

A further table showing the position of deposits (fixed and floating), coin, and advances outside of the Union may be conveniently studied in conjunction with the foregoing. Included, of course, are the figures of the oversea offices of the various banks.

	December, 1914.	June, 1915.
Total deposits.....	\$48,578,347	\$49,041,288
Coin.....	9,660,100	15,570,712
Advances.....	61,082,538	61,337,030

MORE MOTOR LINERS FOR DANISH COMPANY.

In 1912 the East Asiatic Co. added the *Selandia* to its fleet. This was the first motor ocean liner to be put into service. Great interest was taken in its initial voyage to Siam, and a description of the vessel appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for March 26 of that year. Since then, so successful have been Diesel-engined craft, that the East Asiatic Co. has decided to use that type of vessel only, and European advices tell of the sale of 10 of the company's present fleet, which will be replaced by motor liners. The dispatch reads:

Scandinavia's largest commercial concern, the East Asiatic Co., of Copenhagen, is entering upon a new shipping policy which makes a complete change in its position on the world's oceans, where its ships are running on six of the principal routes. A sister company will be formed at Copenhagen, with a capital of 10,000,000 crowns (\$2,680,000), of which the East Asiatic Co. is taking 5,000,000 crowns (\$1,340,000). The new company will take over the East Asiatic's 10 steamers—*Natal*, *Rhodesia*, *Transvaal*, *Kina*, *Arabien*, *Indien*, *Transquebar*, *St. Croix*, and two quite new steamers, each of 7,500 tons. The company states that the steamers could have been sold at a considerably higher price to neutral countries, but it was desired to keep them under the Danish flag. The East Asiatic's trial with motor liners, which was started with the *Selandia* three years ago and since followed up with new vessels, has proved so successful that the company will in future run nothing but motor liners. The sale has created extraordinary interest in Scandinavia, where the East Asiatic is looked upon as a commercial pioneer.

NEW SOUTH WALES FISHERIES.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Australia, Sept. 1.]

The Government deep-sea fisheries inaugurated by the State of New South Wales, as described in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 5, 1915, seem to have proved a success in providing cheap fish for the people. In one week the three small trawlers landed 65,000 pounds of fish, one boat alone bringing in 15 tons, which is said to be more than a similar boat would catch in the North Sea.

In pursuance of its plan of selling direct to the people, the Government opened the first State fish shop in Oxford Street, Sydney, on August 17, and although a large stock had been accumulated it was all disposed of. The prices asked were lower than have prevailed in Sydney for years. The following are some of the varieties of fish offered and the prices obtained, per pound: Skate and ray, 6 cents; barracuda, short boarfish, gurnet, perch, cucumber fish, spotted rock cod, and leather jacket, 8 cents; flathead, dannegai, John Dory, silver dory, and morwong, 10 cents; teraglin, red cod, ling, and sergeant-baker, 12 cents; school whiting and giant boarfish, 14 cents; black rock cod, schnapper, and red bream, 16 cents.

More Markets to be Opened—Interest in Victoria.

The Chief Secretary of the State is so well satisfied with the result that a second shop has been rented in Pitt Street, near Circular Quay, and two more will soon be opened, in addition to which it is proposed to provide movable stalls, which will take up position in different parts of the city and suburbs and be supplied with motor cars fitted with a cold chamber. It is also stated that specifications are being prepared for three more wooden trawlers, driven by oil engines, to be constructed at Sydney.

The State of Victoria is watching with interest the success of the New South Wales venture, and it is reported that arrangements have been made to borrow one of the latter State's trawlers when the occasion warrants, in order to test the waters along the Victorian coast for fish.

VALUE OF FINE-SPLIT AMBER MICA.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 18.]

The price of fine-split amber mica, size 1 by 2, at present exported largely from the Ottawa district, and invoiced at from 20 to 35 cents per pound, is very low when the following facts are taken into consideration: Market value per pound of rough amber mica, 1 by 2, 12 cents; price paid for splitting 1 pound of amber mica, 12 cents; waste on 1 pound of fine amber mica, 4 cents; freight and handling from mine to factory, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent; profit, 8 cents; total, 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Most of the Ontario mica is mined in this consular district and taken to Ottawa to be trimmed and prepared for the American market. The fine-split amber mica is invoiced at this consulate at from 33 to 38 cents per pound.

Charges were made by a local firm that the Ottawa manufacturers are purposely cutting prices in order to secure the American trade. Mica shipments enter the United States at points in the States of Vermont and New York, where duty is paid, and afterwards forwarded to their destination.

FERTILIZERS FROM RUSSIAN PHOSPHORITE.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Aug. 26.]

Previous to the war Russian requirements in fertilizers were covered by foreign products imported to the amount of 612,000 short tons and fertilizers of domestic production to the amount of 252,000 short tons. The Ministry of Agriculture has started a thorough investigation of the deposits of phosphorite in Russia, which will be completed in about two years. There is said to have been investigated so far a supply of 2 tons of phosphorite. The quality of these deposits is far from satisfactory; only 8 per cent of the investigated supply contained more than 24 per cent of phosphoric acid, while the rest represented no industrial value. The deposits on the upper course of the Kama River, containing 27 to 28 per cent of phosphoric acid, are worthy of consideration for both quality and quantity, as well as the fact that they are situated near the deposits of sulphurous iron pyrites in the Ural Mountains.

At the congress of representatives of the zemstvos this summer in Petrograd a great deal of attention was paid to the concern starting the production of fertilizers in Perm. The representatives of the congress were unanimous in their statements that the demand for fertilizers has been rapidly growing during the last few years and that if the price be slightly reduced the consumption will be enormous. The Ministry of Agriculture is placing great hope in the new concern and has requested the zemstvo to expedite its equipment, although the cost of construction will exceed the estimates confirmed by the zemstvo and the ministry. It is expected that work at the new deposits will be started in the spring of 1916 and that the required amount of phosphorite will be obtained.

ARGENTINE SCHOOL FOR FARM MECHANICS.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Aug. 25.]

On September 5, 1915, a school for farm mechanics will be inaugurated at Rafaela, Province of Santa Fe. The school has been recognized by the provincial government and will issue diplomas.

Entrance requirements are as follows: Students must be at least 16 years old, in good health, of good conduct, speak, write, and read Spanish, and understand arithmetic, mental computation, fractions, decimals, and elementary geometry.

A two years' course will be offered, as follows: First year, theoretical and practical instruction in forge and boiler work; adjustment; simple carpentry; shopwork with agricultural implements; light construction; farming; stock raiser's equipment; motors and boilers; wells; designing; Spanish; mathematics; elements of electricity. Second year: Theoretical and practical instruction in boiler work; adjustment; lathe work; applied mechanics; construction; farming in general; machinery and implements for agriculture and stock raising; motors and boilers; setting up; agricultural hydraulics; designing; mathematics; electricity; general work.

Japanese vessels are carrying coal from Australia and Japan to Hawaii.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IN EDMONTON.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Sept. 10.]

Municipal ownership of public utilities has been carried further in Edmonton, the capital of the Province of Alberta, than in any other city in the Dominion of Canada. Since its incorporation in 1901 Edmonton has owned and operated the electric light and power system, waterworks, the power plant, and the street railway (from its inception in 1908). The telephone system, until 1905 privately operated, was acquired in that year, and has since been publicly owned and operated.

Edmonton obtains electric light and power from the municipal power plant, which is operated as a separate utility. This department is the most successful of all the public utilities of Edmonton. According to a statement made at the close of 1914, this department had a surplus for the year amounting to \$55,191 (or 25 per cent higher than the waterworks department, which ranks second), the year's receipts having amounted to \$609,619 and disbursements to \$554,428. The debenture liability of the enterprise on December 31 was \$862,145, the cost of the distribution system was \$764,355, and the sinking fund totaled \$49,321.

Street Railway Department.

On November 8, 1908, Edmonton instituted the street railway trolley system, the largest venture in the municipal ownership program and at present the gravest problem. It seems impossible for this utility to be operated without incurring a big deficit each year. Edmonton has the difficulty to contend with of a large area and a relatively small population. The population of Edmonton is about 40,000, scattered over an area of some 27,000 acres. The establishment of a jitney service has affected somewhat the street railway earnings, but as this service was not established until the spring of 1915 its competition need not be taken into account in this review.

The trackage of the Edmonton street railway system consists of 43 miles of double track (figured on a single-track basis) and 11 miles of single track. The utility had 258 employees and paid \$284,159 in salaries during 1914. Its debenture liability as of December 31 was \$3,004,429. The cost of the system to that date totaled \$3,063,784, the buildings, track, and equipment having cost \$2,887,866, discount on debentures \$115,876, Strathcona franchise \$10,000, and land \$50,042. The sinking fund amounted to \$174,691. The year's expenditures were: Operating, \$535,430; maintenance, \$80,282; other, \$251,958; a total of \$867,670; against which were receipts aggregating \$642,109, leaving a deficit for the year of \$225,561.

In 1914 the Edmonton street railway had 1 fatal accident and 10 suits for damages, all of which were successful, the department paying \$11,182 in damages.

The Water and Telephone Services.

The waterworks department was one of the three municipal trading enterprises to show a surplus in 1914, receipts for the year totaling \$362,535, against expenditures aggregating \$318,657 (operating \$176,080, maintenance \$23,913, other \$118,664). The system has a capac-

ity of 4,750,000 gallons per day, distributed through 156 miles of water mains to 8,500 separate buildings. At the close of 1914 the department's debenture liability amounted to \$1,837,812, the capital expenditure to \$2,243,020, and the sinking fund to \$67,980.

Edmonton's telephone service is of the automatic kind, and has been very satisfactory. The charges for residence phones are \$24 and \$27 per year; for office, \$45 and \$48. There are about 8,000 subscribers to the local exchange, and by cooperation with the provincial government a long-distance service is obtained with practically any point in Alberta. The telephone department has 100 employees, to whom it paid \$121,417 in salaries and wages during 1914. Its financial statement as of December 31 was: Debenture liability, \$1,911,014; cost of the utility—land \$85,668, buildings and equipment, \$1,675,063; sinking fund, \$114,565; results of year's operations—receipts, \$247,103; expenditures, \$284,987; deficit, \$37,884.

Power Plant a Separate Undertaking.

The municipal power plant is situated on the north bank of the Saskatchewan River. Light, power, and water are furnished for the use of the different utilities. It produces its power by steam, using the excellent steam coal found in northern Alberta, which is obtainable at as low a price as \$2.50 per ton, but the average price paid last year was \$3.22. The following are the figures for 1914: Capacity—electric, 12,000 kilowatts; water, 26,000,000 gallons per 24 hours; number of employees, 130; amount of salaries and wages paid, \$64,932; debenture liability, \$2,047,645; cost of the utility—buildings and equipment, \$2,037,033; discount on debentures, \$47,268; sinking fund, \$198,263; receipts—from electric light and power department, \$394,568; from street railways, \$142,392; from waterworks department, \$138,311; from sundry sources, \$1,943; total, \$677,214; expenditures, \$672,214; surplus, \$5,000.

YMUIDEN STEAM-TRAWLING BUSINESS FLOURISHING.

Ymuiden, with its big trawler fleet, has been particularly benefited by the present conditions governing North Sea fishing, and with restricted competition, big catches, short trips, and high prices for the time of year, its steam-trawling business is flourishing. The *Gazette de Hollande*, in its issue of September 11, reports that dealers have been sending increasing quantities of fish to Great Britain. They have sought this opportunity for placing their goods because of difficulties encountered in sending fish to Belgium, where previously 30 per cent of their catch was sent.

Recent shipments to Britain have varied between 600 and 1,600 baskets and cases of from 165 to 220 pounds, carried by the British cargo boats on their regular service between Amsterdam and London. Several prominent Ymuiden fish dealers recently inaugurated a private service with Britain, chartering a steamer at Groningen. This step was taken because of various difficulties encountered in the regular service and the high freights.

[Articles on the British market for fish were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 3, Aug. 20, and Feb. 8, 1915.]

HORSEHAIR TRADE IN RUSSIA.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Aug. 27.]

American importers of horsehair have long been interested in the Russian product. Much of the output has been purchased through foreign commission houses, though a fairly satisfactory trade has been built up with Russian agents. While this article does not play an important part in the economic life of Russia, it is of sufficient value to command considerable attention from manufacturers in the United States.

Horsehair is used in Russia for making a great variety of articles. Brushes are made from it, the manes being kept for soft brushes. White horsehair is considered the most valuable for this purpose and black the second best. The long hair of horses' tails is utilized for fishing tackle, violin bows, military headdress, and cloth for pressing oil. Shorter hair is used for stuffing mattresses and furniture, after having been cleaned with soap and water.

The value of horsehair varies greatly, according to grade. On the Petrograd market one pood (36.11 pounds) of unprepared horsehair (gray manes) may be purchased at 6 to 8 rubles (\$8.50 to \$11.40 per 100 pounds), while long horsehair manes fetch a price of \$107 per 100 pounds, and even more. The prices paid for Russian horsehair abroad are much higher.

Russian horsehair is greatly valued for its length, firmness, and hardness, which are unexcelled. As in the case with bristles, Russia is the only country that exports the highest grade of this product. As the requirements of horsehair on the world's market are considerable, the demand for Russian horsehair is great. According to Russian official statistics, the exports of horsehair from European Russia during the last three years have been as follows: 1912—7,800,000 pounds, valued at \$2,210,000; 1913—5,000,000 pounds, valued at \$1,579,000; 1914—2,600,000 pounds, valued at \$695,000. During the first five months of 1915, 300,000 pounds, valued at \$158,000, were exported, as compared with 1,400,000 pounds, valued at \$330,000, in the corresponding period of 1914 and 1,100,000 pounds, valued at \$279,000, in the corresponding period of 1913.

Formerly regulations issued by the Government required that horsehair be sorted before exportation and there existed a number of concerns engaged in cleaning and sorting this product. In 1894 these regulations were abolished, the firms mentioned were gradually closed, and the quality of Russian horsehair deteriorated. It is thought that it would be greatly to the advantage of the business if a standard were again introduced for horsehair for export.

Busy Cotton Mills in India.

Cotton mills in India produced 181,000,000 pounds of yarn during the three months, April to June, 1915, compared with 174,000,000 pounds in the 1914 period and 169,000,000 pounds in the 1913 period. Woven goods manufactured totaled 82,000,000 pounds in April-June, 1915, compared with 69,000,000 pounds and 66,000,000 pounds in the corresponding quarters of 1914 and 1913. Most of the yarn spun runs below 26s.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Textiles, No. 18665.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in South America who desires to represent American manufacturers of textiles, such as woolen, woolen and cotton, for men and women; hosiery in silk, cotton, and mixed qualities, and knitted underwear for women, men, and children. It is requested that the width, net weight, per meter, and full information be given in the correspondence and that samples be sent as soon as possible.

Paper, No. 18666.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm desires to purchase a quantity of paper and pasteboard, samples of which have been transmitted with the report and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 66592.) References furnished. Samples, as well as terms and discounts, are requested. Correspondence should be in French or Italian, but English may be used.

Woven wire, No. 18667.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a company in his district desires to communicate with firms manufacturing tinned steel and galvanized steel woven wire for mattresses.

Machinery, No. 18668.—A report from an American consular officer in South America states that plans for a Government printing and engraving plant are being considered, and with this object in view manufacturers of printing and engraving machinery are urgently requested to send complete information and catalogues.

Plumbing supplies, No. 18669.—A company in Australia informs an American consular officer that it desires to communicate immediately with manufacturers of engineers' and plumbers' brassware supplies and tube brass.

Advertising calendars, No. 18670.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate directly with manufacturers of advertising calendars. Samples, quotations, and discounts, with cable numbers for each line and code used, are requested.

Pencils, paper, etc., No. 18671.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm desires to represent manufacturers of pencils, penholders, paper, and stationery of all kinds. Illustrated advertising matter, samples, prices, discounts, and terms are requested. Correspondence may be in English.

Wire, No. 18672.—A report from an American consular officer in the United Kingdom states that a firm is desirous of being placed in communication with manufacturers of iron and steel reed wire to be used for making the reeds of weaving looms. It is stated that if prices and material are found suitable large orders will be forthcoming.

Tin concentrates, No. 18673.—A firm in South Africa informs an American consul that it desires names of American importers of tin concentrates. Cable replies are solicited.

Surgical supplies, No. 18674.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm in Sweden desires to purchase about 200 pounds of black tubing, 30 pounds of red tubing, air cushions, hot-water bottles, and other surgical supplies.

Butter containers, No. 18675.—A report from an American consular officer in the United Kingdom states that a firm is in the market for boxes made of spruce to be used as butter containers. It is stated that the inquirer is prepared to place large orders, and desires to deal directly with manufacturers.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

¹ [Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 2696.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 19, 1915, for furnishing the following materials. Firms interested therein should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving the schedule numbers desired: Schedule 8828, steel balls, copper shell bands, and steel shrapnel case forgings; schedule 8831, pumping outfit for mixing acids; schedule 8832, single boat type electric heater; schedule 8833, lighting and power wires, single stranded rubber covered wire, and lead covered rubber insulated wire; schedule 8834, machinery steel; schedule 8835, brass wire cloth, malleable iron pipe fittings, leaf gold, spur geared chain hoists, brass hand lanterns, 54 inches wide artificial leather, strip solder, and malleable iron unions; schedule 8836, interior communication cable and soft steel single conductor wire; schedule 8837, rough brass service cocks, hard red rubber, oil syringes, and rubber pump valves; schedule 8838, polishing cloths, glass salt and pepper shakers, and glass towels; schedule 8844, outfit for pumping water; schedule 8845, storage battery truck; schedule 8846, automobile ambulance; schedule 8847, electrically illuminated sextants; schedule 8848, boxes for high explosives, head nets, machine twist silk thread, steel rectangular tanks, and sleeping nets for single beds and shelter tents; schedule 8849, calcium carbide and white paper for blue-print coating; schedule 8850, lemon extract and vanilla extract; and schedule 8872, woolen gloves.

Bids will also be received until October 26, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8829, laurel and oak wedges; schedule 8830, disk automatic press; schedule 8839, portable ventilating sets, Turkish toweling, and rough brass globe valves; schedule 8842, boiled and raw linseed oil; schedule 8857, single-conductor cable; schedule 8858, aneroid barometers, parallel rulers, comparing watches, and stop watches; schedule 8859, cupro-nickel shell bands, 600-pound crucibles, and 125-horsepower induction motors; schedule 8860, 36-inch by 22-foot engine lathe; schedule 8861, electric blue-printer machine; schedule 8862, interior communication cable and lighting and power wire; schedule 8863, strip brass, green coffee, and 3-strand white cotton line; schedule 8867, squillgee handles, rubber wash-deck hose, light rigging leather, side lights for motor boats, dry yellow ochre, shackles, anchor, thimbles, hooks, etc., white bleached cotton sheeting, and whitening; schedule 8868, white ash, soft Idaho white pine, hewn timber yellow pine, firsts and seconds poplar, and merchantable southern spruce; schedule 8869, interior communication cable, rubber insulated rat-tail wire, and single and twin conductor wire; schedule 8870, gate valves, pressure-reducing valves, and rough brass valves; and schedule 8871, No. 4 pig iron, scoop shovels, and $\frac{1}{2}$ -horsepower portable ventilating sets.

Bids will be received until November 2, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8841, mechanical engine telegraphs, transmitters, indicators, etc.; schedule 8851, molded rubber gaskets and sheet and strip gum gaskets; schedule 8852, petroleum spirits; schedule 8853, fives and sixes candles; schedule 8854, dry cells; schedule 8855, illuminating wax; schedule 8856, safety matches; schedule 8864, Portland cement; schedule 8873, Douglas fir; schedule 8874, steel boiler tubes and rough brass angle and gate valves; schedule 8877, sugar pine and 75 K. W. oil-cooled transformers; schedule 8878, electric welding outfit; schedule 8879, $3\frac{1}{2}$ -foot coal-burning range sections; and schedule 8880, motor delivery wagon. Bids will also be received until November 9, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8840, bolts, steel-rail clips, and cast-iron washers; schedule 8865, W. T. annunciators, circuit breakers, general alarm boat hour gongs, contact makers, etc., alarms, electric whistle outfit, electric docking telegraphs, and thermostats; and schedule 8875, oxygen compressor. Bids will also be received until November 16, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8843, corn brooms, and schedule 8866, Douglas fir. Bids will be received until November 30, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8876, portable transmitting and receiving radio sets.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 238 Washington, D. C., Monday, October 11 1915

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GOVERNMENT SALE OF SKINS.

On Thursday and Friday, October 21 and 22, a sale at public auction will be held by Funsten Bros. & Co., corner of Second and Elm Streets, St. Louis, Mo., of blue and white fox skins and beaver skins for account of the United States Government.

The Department of Commerce is advised that the skins will be ready to show at the address named on Monday, October 18, at 9 a. m.

NEW COAL FIELDS IN MANCHURIA.

[Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, China, Aug. 3.]

New coal fields are reported to have been discovered near Station Manchuli by the local chief of police. The fields are located about 5 miles from the Station Manchuli and 2 miles from the railway line. The discoverer has offered to sell his right in the deposits to the Chinese Eastern Railway which is investigating the amount and quality of the coal.

CIRCULAR TO THE HEMP TRADE.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, Washington, is in receipt of a cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands stating the the majority of exporters of hemp in the islands are urging the establishment of a new grade of hemp between "midway" and "good current." The Governor General desires the opinion of all American cordage manufacturers as to whether or not the trade requires the establishment of such a new grade.

It will therefore be appreciated if all cordage manufacturers in the United States will at once advise the Bureau of Insular Affairs, Washington, D. C., as to their opinion on the necessity of establishing the new grade desired by Philippine exporters.

LABOR CONDITIONS IN CANADA.

[Consul Harry A. Conant, Windsor, Ontario, Sept. 27.]

Reports to the Labor Department as to conditions throughout Canada this fall indicate that unemployment has been very considerably relieved as compared with last year. At present there is comparatively little unemployment in urban centers, except in two or three cities of the far West. The outlook for the coming winter is considerably brighter than it was this time last fall.

In this connection it is interesting to note that at the present time there is not a single strike or labor dispute of any magnitude in the whole Dominion and that wages remain steady.

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, British Columbia, Sept. 21.]

Present Situation on Vancouver Island.

In and around Victoria labor has been poorly employed for many months. There is at present as much idle skilled and unskilled labor as at anytime for the past half year. More than 1,000 mechanics filed applications for work with the British Mission of Enquiry into Armament Labor Supply; of this number 238 were accepted as suitable for work and have departed for England.

Work has commenced on the Saanich paving and waterworks contracts, which will give employment to at least 100 men for several months. The Dominion Government has let a contract for building an observatory on Little Saanich Mountain, at a cost of \$75,000. Six vessels of the local whaling fleet left for the fishing grounds on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Business Quiet in Nanaimo and Vicinity.

In Nanaimo labor conditions are about the same as in Victoria with a poor outlook for any improvement. Wholesalers and retailers report business as very quiet, especially in clothing. There has been no general change in rates of wages but casual outside work has in many cases been paid for at a lower rate than before the war. Farmers are busy with their harvest, which is expected to be above the average this year. The fishermen of the district are doing hardly anything except supplying the small local trade.

The sawmills of the district are working steadily but not to their capacity. The logging camps are very quiet, with few men employed. The coal mines of Nanaimo and district are doing better now than for some time but are not working to their full capacity. Railroad construction work in the district is about at a standstill. There is very little work being done by the city other than sufficient, at reduced wages, to partially relieve the unemployment situation.

THIS YEAR'S HARVEST IN ITALY.

[L'Economiste Européen, Sept. 24.]

According to the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, the harvest for 1915 in Italy is as follows: Corn, 2,958,000 metric tons (1 metric ton=2,204.6 pounds); rice, 530,000 tons; potatoes, 1,600,000 tons; beets, 1,500,000 tons; hemp, 160,000 tons; grapes, 3,820,000 tons. All the crops showed an increase except grapes and potatoes, which remained at about the average figure for the last five years.

NOTES FROM THE NETHERLANDS.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Sept. 13.]

Building Trades Affected by War.

In the Netherlands the building trades and allied industries are very much affected by war conditions. Most raw materials are usually drawn from the countries which are now at war. Building stone can no longer be imported in quantities from Belgium nor can limestone for use in the manufacture of sand-lime brick. One large factory making these bricks has entirely suspended operations.

New Phosphate Plant.

Considerable interest is now being taken in the Netherlands toward the manufacturing of acid phosphates for fertilizer. A factory is being organized in Rotterdam, supported by the *Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging*. A farmers' cooperative factory is under consideration in Groningen. The burgomaster of that city will give information about it.

The Netherlands imports annually 250,000 to 300,000 tons of acid phosphates, about one-third of which comes from the United States and one-third from Belgium. [For a report on fertilizers in the Netherlands see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 23, 1915.]

[Glasgow (Scotland) Herald, Sept. 25.]

Dutch Shipyards Active.

The conditions created by the war have placed the shipbuilding industry of Holland in a very favorable situation. Owing to the fact that neither the English nor the German shipbuilding yards are able to deliver new tonnage for foreign account, all the requirements of the Dutch mercantile marine are being supplied by the home yards, which have sufficient contracts in hand to keep them fully employed until at least the end of next year and perhaps well into 1917. At the end of last June the tonnage under construction or contracted for on account of the Dutch merchant fleet comprised 64 steamers of 269,000 tons, of which 20 vessels of 84,000 tons were for Amsterdam, and 37 vessels of 181,000 for Rotterdam. Messrs. Harland and Wolff, of Belfast, had in hand the steamer *Statendam* and three steamers of 32,000 tons each, all for account of the Holland-Amerika Line, but of course none of these can be delivered while the war lasts.

With regard to the prospects for the future, opinion in Dutch shipping circles is divided, some people holding that the war will be followed by a very active freight market, while others think that there will be a period of very serious depression. In any case, the numerous contracts for new tonnage and the high prices that are being paid for second-hand ships seem to point to good expectations on the part of shipowners.

New Guinea Will Build pontoons.

The Papuan Government is calling for prices for a quantity of selected Oregon pine and hardwood for pontoon building, also galvanized-iron fastenings and bolts for use in the same work. Papua, or British New Guinea, is under Australian Government control, with central administration at Melbourne.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE EXPORT TRADE.

American manufacturers of musical instruments, with an annual output valued at about \$100,000,000, export only \$3,000,000 worth annually to foreign countries. Their sales abroad reached their highest level in the fiscal year 1913, when the exports totaled \$3,800,000. In 1915, following the outbreak of the European war, the total fell to \$2,048,715.

The foregoing statement illustrates the numerous unseized opportunities for foreign business which the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, through its daily **COMMERCE REPORTS** and other publications, is constantly bringing to the notice of American manufacturers. One of its recent booklets, "Foreign Trade in Musical Instruments," issued as Special Consular Reports No. 55, reviews conditions in about 25 countries which alone import about \$20,000,000 worth of pianos, piano players, etc.

Some of the larger markets include Canada, which buys a half million dollars' worth of pianos and piano parts annually; Mexico, which buys musical instruments valued at over a half million dollars per annum; Argentina, which imports a million dollars' worth of pianos each year; Brazil, which imports about a half million dollars' worth per annum; France, which imports apparatus for playing harmoniums and pianos to the value of two-thirds of a million dollars each year; and England, Russia, Australia, and South Africa.

It is only in the comparatively near-by markets of North America that American manufacturers lead in the sales of musical instruments. Elsewhere, save in China, India, and a few other countries, German instruments occupy the predominant position.

The following table shows the exports of musical instruments from the United States in the fiscal years 1875, 1895, and 1915 (12 months ended June 30):

Classes.	1875	1895	1915
Organs	\$363, 132	\$640, 718	\$190, 160
Pianos	261, 623	233, 043	808, 565
Piano players	(a)	(a)	80, 427
Player pianos	(a)	(a)	356, 532
All other musical instruments	4, 232	241, 966	613, 031
Total	628, 987	1, 115, 727	2, 048, 715

^a Not separately stated.

American pianos are chiefly exported to Canada, where they constitute about 90 per cent of the total imports of that class; to Great Britain, for reshipment to other parts of the world; and to Central and South America. Our player pianos are sent in about equal numbers to Australia, England, Italy, and Argentina, and in much larger quantities to Canada. Most of the piano players are invoiced to England. Germany in normal years has been our second largest customer. Large numbers of American organs are sold each year in Great Britain and her colonies; also considerable amounts in the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, and China.

Broom handles and wooden cloth rollers are needed in Glasgow, Scotland, which formally obtained its supply from northern Europe.

SUGAR MACHINERY FOR PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Aug. 5.]

The Philippine Islands promise to offer an exceedingly good field for the sale of sugar-making machinery during the next few years. The industry is forging ahead by leaps and bounds, and the interest of agriculturalists in every part of the islands where the soil and other conditions are favorable to the growing of sugar is being turned to it.

The creation by the last legislature of a sugar-central board to establish centrals backed by the Government [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 14, June 2 and 28, July 20, and Sept. 18, 1915] has insured not only the investment of the funds already appropriated by the Government for that purpose but gives promise of future investments of the same kind by the Government. There are very few up-to-date sugar mills in the country at present, but the few that are already established have opened the eyes of the growers to the great advantages to be derived from modern machinery. Most of the mills already installed are of American manufacture, but European manufacturers are now in the field and are offering terms to the planters which are generally regarded as favorable.

The quantity of sugar machinery that might be sold in the islands is limited only by the funds of the planters. If it were possible for machinery sellers to make the terms of payment on a basis that would allow the planters to pay for the centrals out of the product of their fields, taking the fields themselves as security and retaining the ownership of the machinery until it is paid for, the market for machinery here might be developed almost without limit, for the area of good sugar land still open to the introduction of modern machinery has been little more than touched. At the present moment the great need of the sugar industry in the islands is capital; with that the industry and the consequent market for machinery could and would be expanded many fold.

PROPOSED PERUVIAN INTERNAL LOAN.

[Consul General Wm. W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Aug. 25.]

President Pardo has recently held several important conferences with the heads of the Lima banking institutions and some of the principal business men of Peru in connection with the reorganization of the national finances. While no definite announcement has yet been made regarding the steps that the President will take to cope with the existing financial situation, it is understood that an agreement has been reached to float an internal loan of about £500,000 (\$2,433,250), although no details have been made public regarding the manner in which it will be placed. It is stated that the President has suggested that it draw 6 per cent interest and be guaranteed by an export tax on minerals and other exports.

It may be of interest to mention in this connection that, inasmuch as the principal banks of Lima pay 6 per cent interest on yearly deposits, a loan to the Government at the proposed low rate would probably receive little or no support from the local banking institutions.

PORTUGAL EXPECTED TO HAVE FAIR VINTAGE.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 18.]

With regard to the wine crop of this year in Portugal, on which Consular Agent W. H. Stuve, at Oporto, has prepared a report, nothing certain can be said as yet, because no official or commercial estimates are published on this subject until after the vintage, but it is possible to make predictions on certain points by comparing some features of the coming vintage with those of 1914. The consular agent's report gives these facts:

In the Douro district the crop is estimated in general much larger than last year's and good qualities are expected.

In the south of Portugal the quantity will be much below last year owing to the cryptogamic diseases.

In the district of Traz-os-Montes both quantity and quality are expected to be superior.

In the Minho region the crop promises to be a good deal more abundant and to produce good qualities.

In the Algarve Province the yield will be exceedingly reduced.

Quantities in Last Year's Vintage by Districts.

The vintage begins about October 1. For last year's vintage the quantities in the 17 districts of Continental Portugal, in hectoliters of 26.42 gallons each, were:

Districts.	Hectoliters.	Districts.	Hectoliters.	Districts.	Hectoliters.
Aveiro.	85, 120	Evora.	108, 640	Porto.	67, 720
Beja.	61, 740	Faro.	109, 20	Santarem.	589, 200
Braga.	88, 480	Guarda.	39, 120	Viana do Castello.	311, 440
Braganca.	14, 440	Leiria.	166, 400	Vila Real.	45, 240
Castello Branco.	9, 200	Lisboa.	2, 789, 400	Vizeu.	191, 790
Coimbra.	77, 720	Portalegre.	15, 240	Total.	4, 770, 090

During the past five years the production of wine registered has been: 1910—4,336,890 hectoliters; 1911—3,657,130; 1912—4,443,850; 1913—3,923,210; 1914—4,770,090. If divided by the four principal classifications given to the wines—vinhos generosos, vinhos verdes, vinhos maduros, and vinhos alcoolicos—the result shows in hectoliters:

Classes of wine.	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Generosos.	577, 780	504, 300	604, 110	627, 240	290, 590
Verdes.	906, 800	812, 100	981, 900	1, 179, 780	552, 760
Maduros.	2, 538, 960	2, 113, 430	2, 604, 490	1, 909, 010	3, 631, 920
Alcoolicos.	253, 350	227, 300	253, 350	207, 180	294, 820

An effort has been made to increase the exportation of light white and red wines to the United States, but the demand has not been large.

REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN FIRMS IN AUSTRALIA.

Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, of Melbourne, Australia, requests that American manufacturers advise him through the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce if they are represented in Australia, and give the names of their representatives and such other information as may be of service.

NEW INDIGO CROP IN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Aug. 27, 1915.]

The new crop of indigo in Madras Presidency will approach 375,000 pounds, according to estimates usually considered reliable. This is an important part of the entire Indian crop, the other principal sources being Behar and Bengal, for which no estimates are available locally at present, while for Oudh and Benares the crops are estimated at 250,000 to 300,000 pounds.

The demands for Indian dyeing purposes is great, and all new indigo so far manufactured in the Madras district has been taken by the native buyer at rates probably better than shippers would pay.

Considerable interest in the indigo trade is being taken by growers and dealers owing to the increased demand for natural indigo as a result of the cessation of the supplies of synthetic dyes. In some quarters there is a tendency to push forward manufacture and dispose of the produce as soon as possible, but the majority of planters seem to be in favor of working on a cooperative basis, as in former years, and not to be in haste to dispose of their indigo. Whether prices will be maintained remains to be seen, but for the present, at least, the trade has revived.

Plans to Improve the Yield.

Meanwhile experts of the Government of India are giving renewed attention to investigations as to the possibility of improving the yield and quality of the crop. The report of a Government botanist recently published tells of experiments conducted at Pusa, where changes in the former method of cultivating Java indigo in that region have given encouraging results. The principal changes decided upon are: Leaf growing and seed growing of Java indigo should be treated separately; for seed, Java indigo should be sown about the middle of August on high, well-drained fertile lands. The report states that, besides the supply of good seed, there are two other directions in which the yield of indigo can be increased—first, by selection; and, second, by considerable development of the present methods of growing indigo, as, for example, in systematic pollination by means of bees.

Besides progress in cultivation, it is realized also that standardization of the actual dye for the benefit of the dyer is essential in establishing indigo as a commercial success.

Formerly most of the factory-made indigo was exported, but now a good part is used locally. There are no exports of indigo from Madras to the United States at present, but the exports to all countries for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, were 270 long tons, valued at \$443,500, as compared with 89 tons, valued at \$95,059, in the previous year. Most exports are to the United Kingdom.

[A previous article on the subject of Indigo in India appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 8, 1915.]

According to an article published in the Manchuria Daily News for August 19, the Japanese Leased Territory government is to have a separate building erected for Manchurian exhibits at the Imperial Coronation Commemorative Exhibition, to be opened at Kyoto October 1. The exhibits were to be collected before the end of August and shipped to Kyoto.

STATUS OF RUSSIAN COTTON TRADE.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Sept. 12.]

Just after my visit to Archangel, in the latter part of August, to study the situation there in connection with the problem of moving freight, especially American cotton, into the interior of Russia, I visited Moscow, the chief center of Russia's important cotton trade, and also Oryekhovo, about 60 miles from Moscow, on the railway from Moscow to Nizhni Novgorod, where there is an important group of cotton textile mills. As a result of such investigations concerning the present status of the cotton trade in Russia, there seemed conclusive reasons to infer that if American producers of cotton could adopt some feasible scheme of overcoming transportation difficulties in connection with the Archangel route the financial benefits to the cotton-growing States of the South might be very considerable. It was apparent that most of the American cotton which had reached the Moscow industrial district since the war began had been marketed at a considerable profit, notwithstanding excessive costs of transportation, loss of interest due to long delays, extra war duties and insurance, and unusual depreciation in quality during transit. This applied even to the very long and expensive Vladivostok route.

Uncertainties of Cotton Transportation—High Prices of Russian Cotton.

Notwithstanding the possibility of marketing American cotton at good profits if it could only be brought to the industrial districts where wanted, the uncertainty of being able to get the cotton after its purchase in Liverpool, together with uncertainties connected with the fluctuating value of the ruble, had greatly limited Russian orders. Not only had a great deal of American cotton been held up at Archangel and Vladivostok, owing to deficient transportation facilities, but also, on account of the Swedish embargo against the exportation of cotton, enormous quantities appear to be lying in the open on the frontier of Sweden, exposed to serious deterioration, the Russian owners meanwhile having their money tied up.

The losses to American export cotton interests through not being able to take advantage of the active market for cotton in Russia represented enormous profits to a small group of dealers in Russian-Asiatic cotton, chiefly on the Moscow exchange. One dealer alone, with comparatively small capital, is said to have made a profit amounting to about \$1,500,000 during the past six months. The growers of the Russian-Asiatic cotton have apparently had no increased prosperity at all commensurate with the enormous fortunes that have been made by this small group of Moscow dealers and banks financing the shipments from Central Asia. The cotton growers of Russian Asia always get approximately the same prices for the cotton they produce, no matter what may occur in the Moscow market.

Analysis of Cost of Russian Cotton and Conditions of Production.

The present price of Russian-Asiatic cotton in Moscow (white American seed, coming up to about "good middling" American cotton of 28 to 29 millimeters (1.10 to 1.14 inches) staple) is 27 rubles per pood (\$192.52 per 500-pound bale at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble) and has been as high as 32 (\$228.16 per bale). Such cotton was selling in July, 1914, at about 16 rubles per

pood (\$114.08 per bale): The actual present cost of such cotton in central Asia before ginning is 5.75 rubles per pood (\$8.20 per bale). As 1 pood (36.11 pounds) of ginned cotton is produced from an average $3\frac{1}{4}$ poods (117.36 pounds) of unginned cotton, and the cost of production amounts to approximately 19 rubles per pood less the price received from the sale of the 2 poods of seed thus obtained, which is 2.20 rubles. Thus the total cost of the cotton less the seed is 16.80 rubles. Adding the cost of ginning, packing, etc., which is about 1.90 rubles per pood, and the transport by camel, railroad to Moscow, etc., which may approximate 0.90 rubles per pood, the total cost in central Russia is 19.60 rubles per pood, or, with the war tax of 2.5 rubles per pood, 22.10 rubles per pood (\$157.57 per bale).

The actual cost of producing the Russian-Asiatic cotton has not, it is stated, advanced materially except through the decreased purchasing power of the ruble, and extra cost of bagging, steel rims, etc. Transportation of the cotton to Moscow costs about 30 per cent more than before the war, and the cotton now also pays a war tax as mentioned. The field work is done chiefly by the farmers and their families, especially by women. As the inhabitants of this cotton-producing section of central Asia are chiefly Mohammedans, and as the women are not allowed to work outside their family farms, there is some difficulty in arranging for a mobile supply of hired labor.

Analysis of Cost in Moscow of American Cotton.

The elements entering into the Moscow price of cotton shipments that have arrived from the United States via Vladivostok are as follows: The cost of such cotton delivered at Vladivostok, including all charges such as freight, insurance, etc., as established by the terms of sale at Liverpool, which amounts to about 10.50 rubles per pood (\$74.87 per bale); import duty, 6 rubles per pood (\$42.80 per bale); freight charges from Vladivostok, 1.60 rubles per pood (\$11.41 per bale); forwarding charges, 0.50 ruble per pood (\$3.57 per bale). The cost in Moscow is therefore 18.60 rubles per pood (\$132.62 per bale). The cost of exchanging rubles into pounds sterling on the Liverpool transaction, which may fluctuate considerably, but which at present may be taken as about 20 per cent of the Russian equivalent of the Liverpool price, would add about 2.10 rubles per pood (\$14.97 per bale) to the cost at Moscow, making it 20.70 rubles per pood (\$147.59 per bale). This American cotton is equivalent in quality to the Russian-Asiatic cotton, whose cost factors are already explained. The American cotton, when it finally gets to Moscow, should sell on a basis that would easily compete with the Russian-Asiatic cotton.

American cotton has been quoted at 27 rubles per pood (\$192.52 per bale), the same price as the white American seed Russian-Asiatic cotton. However, supplies of such American cotton at Moscow have been so meager that quotations have been to some extent fictitiously high, and there is no doubt that with any important increase in the local supply prices would drop and carry down with them the inflated values for Russian-Asiatic cotton. The Cotton Committee of the Moscow Exchange has just established a price of 24.75 rubles (\$176.47 per bale) for the first quality of the new American crop, which would appear to allow a profit of about 4 rubles per pood (\$28.52 per bale) to dealers who can bring the American cotton via

Vladivostok into the Moscow district. If American cotton were brought in via Archangel, the profit should be larger, since the transportation from Archangel to Moscow costs less than one-third of the rate from Vladivostok to Moscow. It is understood, however, that the Liverpool price for the cotton is somewhat higher delivered at Archangel than delivered at Vladivostok via the Panama Canal, owing to greater cost of ships across the Atlantic, war insurance, etc. The Archangel route is not available during the winter season of closed navigation, but it is expected that about May 1 a great deal of American cotton might come by this route.

Much Asiatic Cotton of Low Grade—Need of American Cotton.

In connection with the great demand and booming market for Russian-Asiatic cotton, it may be explained that a great deal of this cotton, which is of very inferior quality, is now purchased for manufacturing various cotton goods that normally require much better grades of raw cotton. If American cotton were available for the Russian textile mills, it would supplant for all the better grades of goods the inferior grades of Russian-Asiatic cotton that the mill owners are compelled to use at present. A mere comparison of estimated cotton output for the year in Asiatic Russia, the Caucasus, etc., with the estimated requirements of the local mills, which would show the need of probably 5,000,000 poods (361,000 bales) of foreign cotton, does not reveal the full opportunity for the successful importation of American cotton if shipping difficulties were overcome, for the reason that the Russian textile mills would readily give first choice to American cotton over a large proportion of the Russian-Asiatic cotton, if the American cotton were available. For instance, the manager of a leading group of cotton mills in Russia states that from the time the war started until about August 1 of this year his mills could get no American cotton at all. They have now secured a small amount and are using about 5 per cent of American cotton in the piece goods they turn out. He mentioned that if they could secure all the American cotton they wanted, the proportion would be 35 per cent.

Out of the entire Russian-Asiatic crop of cotton (not including cotton from Persia) about 83 per cent is American-seed cotton and about 17 per cent is local seed, usually known as "district" cotton. Most of the Asiatic cotton contains considerable dust and other impurities. The gross weight of the Asiatic cotton bale of the same cubic capacity as the American bale is only 9 poods (325 pounds), as compared with 14 poods (505 pounds). The American tare is approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and the Russian-Asiatic about $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The smaller percentage of tare, the greater cleanness, and the greater weight per cubic capacity are, of course, very favorable factors for American cotton in competition with Russian-Asiatic. As yet a large part of the cotton-growing area in Central Asia is removed from railway facilities, so that the cotton has to be carried on the backs of camels. The maximum a camel can carry is about 800 pounds, or 400 pounds on each side of the back, and it is customary to split the weight up into several packages, thereby increasing the percentage of tare.

About 60 per cent of the Russian-Asiatic cotton reaches Moscow by way of Tashkent and Orenburg, and about 40 per cent by boats

via the Caspian Sea. The routes whereby this Russian-Asiatic cotton can get to Moscow are comparatively free from the congestion which has characterized the railway line across Siberia from Vladivostok to Moscow and from Archangel to Moscow, there being no great amount of goods required by the Government for military purposes over these routes from Central Asia. It is, of course, this advantage of easy transportation that is giving Russian-Asiatic cotton a practical monopoly for the Russian mills' consumption, in exclusion of the formerly competing American and Egyptian cotton.

Large Cotton Mills at Oryekhovo.

When the writer visited one of the largest and most important mills in Russia, at Oryekhovo, about 60 miles from Moscow, the manager apologized for the dust in the atmosphere, which arose from the large percentage of impurities in the low-grade Russian-Asiatic cotton that they were obliged to use. He explained the great difficulty and special ingenuity required to try to make high-class goods from a low grade of cotton. In view of the fact that there was scarcely any American or Egyptian cotton to work with, and not enough good Asiatic cotton, the results obtained seemed surprisingly satisfactory. A large amount of American cotton that had been purchased for these mills was still lying at Archangel, Vladivostok, and on the Swedish frontier.

These mills at Oryekhovo are under English management and employ about 16,000 people. They have about 200,000 spinning spindles and 3,000 looms in operation, considerable weaving of the yarn spun here being done by outside firms. Among the lines of cotton goods turned out at these mills may be mentioned all kinds of dress materials, sheetings, towels, print goods, cotton velveteens, vicuña cloths (mostly cotton, but partly wool), sateens and imitation silk, flannelettes, shirtings, blouse material, black and white checked cloth (very popular for skirts), all kinds of cotton goods suitable for the peasant trade, yellow moleskins for the use of mandarins, etc., in China, khaki shirtings and drills, bandages, antiseptic wadings, and aeroplane cloth.

An interesting feature of this great plant is the recent substitution of American winding machinery for machinery previously made in Europe. This American machinery takes up less room in the factory, has a greater production, makes more compact bobbins, and is operated with less difficulty than the machinery formerly in use. The power for operating this plant is economically obtained from combustion of peat found in the vicinity and brought to a large central boiler house and power plant, where it is converted into electrical energy. American motors are used and also considerable Swedish electrical machinery.

Measures to Promote Welfare of Employees.

The management of these textile mills at Oryekhovo has oversight over a number of matters, like education, amusements for employees, and even church worship, which in the United States would be considered outside the scope of a manufacturing plant but which in Russia have a highly important influence on the value of labor and profitable output of goods. A large school is maintained for the children of employees up to 15 years of age, 2,000 children are being edu-

cated at the expense of the mills. There are 50 scholarships for those who show special ability in order to enable them to obtain technical education at leading colleges. The mills also maintain at their own expense a church, a theater, a large park, athletic field, etc., and a large hospital. A big cooperative store is maintained where employees can purchase all necessary articles at practically cost prices. Sanitary dwellings are also provided for employees and general measures are taken to promote the health and morality of the large factory population. All aged employees are pensioned.

At the time of the revolutionary troubles in Russia about 10 years ago, this Oryekhovo mill district was a special center of anarchistic disturbance. The management came to the conclusion that the trouble with their employees was mainly lack of wholesome and proper amusement, and by supplying amusements, especially by encouraging sports, they have made the employees much more loyal and law-abiding. The old strike spirit seems to have disappeared. These mills are now noted for their athletic teams, and have caused athletic organizations to be formed all over Russia. About 60 football teams, for instance, have been formed throughout Russia, the one at Oryekhovo, the first to be organized, being the model, with English Association football rules in force.

Cotton Mills Busy—Consumption—American Cotton in 1916—Direct Trade.

The Russian cotton-textile mills are being very profitably operated to full capacity, the increased cost of raw cotton and difficulty in manufacture being more than compensated by the higher prices obtained for finished goods. In addition to special demands due to war conditions, the normal demand for cotton piece goods has fully kept up and even increased, owing chiefly to the largely increased savings of the peasantry because of their inability to buy vodka. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Government Savings-Bank deposits in the Oryekhovo mill district have multiplied 30 times since the sale of vodka was suppressed.

As stated in the recent cable from this office [published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 1, 1915], the consumption of cotton by the mills of Russia, excluding Finland and the zone of military operations, is estimated at 22,500,000 poods (1,625,000 bales) annually, this estimate being based on 7,500,000 spindles working at full speed on two 9-hour shifts, giving an average of about 3 poods (108 pounds) per spindle per year, as against about 2 poods (72 pounds) per spindle previous to the war.

The particular demand for American cotton is likely to develop early in 1916, in time to have cotton from the new American crop shipped to Archangel at the beginning of spring navigation in May. Doubtless the special purchase or renting of barges on the Dwina River and proper attention to forwarding on arrival at Archangel would greatly assist the movement, and if the Moscow importers felt sure that they could import the cotton without undue delays, they would give much more liberal orders.

Unless absolute dependence is to be placed on Liverpool, which is to a great extent taking the place of Bremen in transshipping cotton to Russia, the cotton growers and exporters in the United States should seriously study all feasible plans for cultivating direct trade with Russia.

CREDIT REQUIRED BY RUSSIAN COTTON MANUFACTURERS.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow Aug. 30.]

The Russian Association of Cotton Manufacturers authorized a representative to apply to the Ministry of Finance for the granting of sufficient funds in foreign currency to the cotton manufacturing firms to enable them to purchase their supply of foreign cotton for the coming season. The cotton industry is insufficiently provided with raw material and is obliged to purchase supplies abroad. In view of the fact that the superior grades of foreign cotton and the Egyptian cotton of early crops are sold on the market during the autumn months, the attention of the Minister of Finance was drawn to the urgency of purchases of foreign cotton.

Taking these facts into consideration, the Minister of Finance gave his consent in principle. At the same time he proposed that the definite amount of the required currency be ascertained, promising that foreign currency would be supplied at the rate of 120 rubles for £10 sterling, or about 47 cents per ruble.

CATALOGUES OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WANTED.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 8.]

The American consulate general at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has been asked by certain local physicians and surgeons to furnish the following catalogues and price lists, which are lacking in its files at present. Manufacturers of the articles noted below are respectfully requested, therefore, to mail to the consulate general their catalogues, accompanied by price lists in which export discounts are clearly stated:

Anatomical charts and models and other graphic presentments used in the teaching of medicine in its various branches.

It is also desired to have the catalogues of makers of surgical instruments and instrument cases, or first-aid cases, who could produce from the model a new article of this sort in quantities.

It is also desired to have catalogues showing outfits of prophylactic or preventive medicines or mechanical appliances against the spread of syphilis.

NEW STEAMER SERVICE WITH DUTCH EAST INDIES.

The activities of the foreign trade department of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to extend the trade of the Pacific coast into new areas and to afford better transportation facilities for carrying American wares to markets now reached with difficulty have met with success, so far as the Dutch East Indies are concerned. The chamber has just informed the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that, as the result of nearly a year of endeavor on its part, the Java-China-Japan Lijn, of Amsterdam, Netherlands, is to establish a monthly service of first-class cargo steamers between Batavia, Java, and San Francisco, the new service to start with a sailing from Batavia on December 15. Steamers will load at Abatavia, Cheribon, Samarang, Soerabaya, and Makassar, thence proceed to Manila, Hongkong, and San Francisco. The first vessel of the new service will reach San Francisco in February.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the **Bureau** or its **branch offices.**]

Tanning machinery, No. 18676.—A man in South America desires to purchase the following tanning machinery: One leather hammer, one splitting machine, one putting-out machine, one bark mill, one glazing machine, and two tanning drums. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. The first letter or catalogue should contain all necessary information, such as prices, terms, discounts, etc., in order to avoid unnecessary correspondence.

Drugs, No. 18677.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a pharmaceutical dealer is in the market for drugs of all kinds to be used for pharmaceutical and technical work.

Briar pipes, No. 18678.—A report from an American consular officer in the United Kingdom states that a firm of cigarette and cigar manufacturers in his district desires to purchase briar pipes. References furnished.

Novelties, photo and optical goods, etc., No. 18679.—A firm of commission agents in India has requested an American consul to place it in communication with dealers in novelties, photo and optical goods, fountain pens, and stationery, motion-picture machines, etc., with a view to possible purchases. It desires to import directly on its own account or on a commission basis. Correspondence may be in English.

Hemp thread and yarn, No. 18680.—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of hemp thread and yarn. It is especially interested in fishing lines.

Flax tapes, No. 18681.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in this country desires to purchase endless flax tapes about a yard long, 1 inch wide, and 0.016 inch thick.

Copper and brass tubes, No. 18682.—A letter to the Bureau from a business man in Argentina states that he desires to purchase copper and brass tubes direct from manufacturers. Three lists, two in German and one in Spanish, as well as descriptions of the tubes wanted accompany the letter and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 69.)

Heelplate nails, No. 18683.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of heelplate nails. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Chemical products, No. 18684.—A report from an American consular officer in Spain states that a company is in the market for a quantity of chemical products for industrial use. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French.

Machinery, No. 18685.—A business man in India informs an American consul that he desires to correspond with manufacturers of machines for drying fruit of all kinds, and also hand-power machines for cutting and paring fruits, such as apples, pears, etc. Practical and inexpensive machines are desired.

Educational catalogues, No. 18686.—An American consular officer in India reports that he has been requested to furnish students catalogues of American schools and colleges, especially those having engineering courses.

Whiskies, No. 18687.—A business man in Brazil is desirous of establishing commercial relations with American exporters of whiskies. Samples are requested. Terms, cash against documents. It is stated that as soon as prices and samples are received a cable order will be forthcoming, and it is suggested that a code be arranged.

Iron bars, No. 18688.—A report from an American consul in Italy states that a firm in his district wishes to communicate with manufacturers of iron bars to be used in concrete construction. If the price is satisfactory it is probable that 1,000 tons of this product will be imported annually. Discounts and terms of payment should be given. Correspondence may be in French but Italian is preferred.

- Mining machinery**, No. 18689.—An American consular officer in Burma reports that a firm has requested to be supplied with prices and full information on concentrating mining machinery. A sole agency is desired. Quotations c. i. f. Rangoon.
- Needles**, No. 18690.—A report from an American consular officer in France states that two firms in his district desire to represent firms dealing in needles.
- Rubber articles**, No. 18691.—A man in Italy has informed an American consular officer that he desires to represent a firm manufacturing hard-rubber articles, such as syringes, thermometers, atomizers, and rubber bulbs. If necessary, purchases will be made on his own account. References given. Correspondence should be in French or Italian and prices stated in lire or francs.
- General representation**, No. 18692.—A company of provision dealers in India desires to receive catalogues and price lists of groceries, provisions, and liquors.
- Machinery**, No. 18693.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a man in his district desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of machinery for grinding and mixing paints. Catalogues, price list, and full information are solicited.
- Steel window sashes**, No. 18694.—Catalogues and literature, together with terms of business on steel window sashes are requested by a firm in Burma. It is stated that it desires a sole agency for same. Prices c. i. f. Rangoon are solicited.
- Buttons, perfumery, typewriters, etc.**, No. 18695.—The Department of Commerce is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Russia stating that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of buttons, laces, needles and pins, sewing cotton, embroideries, haberdashery, toilet articles, advertising novelties, typewriters, stationery, etc.
- Machinery**, No. 18696.—One of the commercial agents of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reports a possible opportunity in Bolivia for installing a factory for making cotton thread and refining cottonseed oil. A pamphlet giving detailed information relative to this project may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 70.)
- Leather**, No. 18697.—A firm in Denmark writes the Department of Commerce that it is prepared to do a cash business in all kinds of leather to be used as belting, etc.
- Hardware**, No. 18698.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a business man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of hardware. He desires to act on a commission basis. He wishes credit terms of 90 days. Bank references given.
- Shoe laces, etc.**, No. 18699.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in England stating that it desires to purchase quantities of shoe laces and iron and brass shoe rivets, etc. References given.
- Rolled gold, etc.**, No. 18700.—An American consular officer in India transmits the name and address of a business man who desires to communicate with American manufacturers and dealers in articles made of rolled gold and Canadian gold. Correspondence may be in English.
- Copying presses, suit cases, etc.**, No. 18701.—A wholesale and retail dealer in East Africa has informed an American consular officer that he wishes to receive catalogues and full information relative to copying presses, fezzes, suit cases, twine, and wrapping paper. Correspondence may be in English.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

PROSPEROUS DUTCH NORTH SEA FISHERY.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 2.]

The fishing industry centered at Ymuiden, at the entrance of the North Sea Canal, is very prosperous this year, at least so far as the catch is concerned. During August 366 steam and 882 sail trawlers brought to Ymuiden \$330,000 worth of fish, against \$196,000 worth brought there in August, 1914, by 477 steam and 674 sail trawlers.

During the first eight months of this year the total value of the catch was \$2,302,000, brought in 2,568 steam and 3,627 sail trawlers. During the corresponding period of 1914 the value was \$1,525,000, brought in 2,917 steam and 3,565 sail trawlers.

As will be noticed, the number of steam trawlers has decreased and the number of sail trawlers has increased this year. Of course these figures mean the arrivals of trawlers at Ymuiden, not the number of different ones.

The increased value of the fish caught this year is partly due to an advance in price in comparison with last year. There is great variation in the price advance of different fish, but the average is put at about 20 per cent.

FOREIGN MARKETS FOR HARNESS AND SADDLERY.

In view of the marked interest manifested by American manufacturers of harness and saddlery, an investigation of the markets of the world has recently been conducted by American consular officers, and reports covering the peculiar conditions prevailing in their respective districts, including the types of harness, etc., in use, the extent of the trade and the possibilities for American participation therein, have been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

It is intended to exhibit these reports in manuscript form at the various branch offices of the Bureau and at the headquarters of different commercial organizations. American firms interested in these reports should immediately address the Bureau so that an itinerary may be prepared.

ROCK OBSTRUCTS NAVIGATION IN BOSTON APPROACH.

The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, which has been using a wire drag in searching for obstructions to navigation at various points, reports that a rock with 24 feet over it lies nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles 92° true (ESE. $\frac{1}{4}$ E. mag.) from Minots Ledge Lighthouse, and three-eighths mile northeastward of a rock with 25 feet over it previously reported on the track recommended for vessels bound from Boston to Plymouth and the Cape Cod Canal.

The survey says that it is advisable for vessels of a greater draft than about 18 feet, and also for all vessels in a heavy sea, to avoid these spots by passing eastward of the black can buoy which marks the charted $3\frac{1}{2}$ -fathom spot lying $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles eastward of Minots Ledge Lighthouse.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 239 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 12 1915

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LIGHTHOUSE TENDERS WILL HAVE CHARTS FOR SALE.

Arrangements have been made recently by the Lighthouse Service, Department of Commerce, at the request of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, to have a supply of charts made available on one or more lighthouse tenders in each lighthouse district on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts of the United States for sale to mariners and others who are desirous of purchasing charts within the waters in which the tenders are operated. The Coast and Geodetic Survey will furnish the charts and will renew all charts requiring correction at such intervals as may be considered proper.

BETTER SHOWING IN COUNTRY'S BUILDING OPERATIONS.

The September reports of building permits issued throughout the country make a good showing, and when taken in connection with the August improvement, compared with the corresponding months in the preceding year, greatly improve the record for the year to date. The total of 65 cities reporting for September, 1915, was \$54,965,052, compared with \$41,530,254 in September, 1914, and the total for the first nine months of 1915 was \$458,464,756, compared with \$481,009,021 for the corresponding period last year. The gain for September was 32 per cent, and the loss for the nine months only 5 per cent.

FRENCH INDUSTRIES SHOW INCREASING ACTIVITY.

[From Office of Commercial Attache, American Embassy, Paris, France, Sept. 24.]

The French Minister of Labor has made an inquiry among 37,000 industrial and commercial concerns, employing over a million persons in normal times, and states that at the end of July, 1915, 79 per cent of these establishments were in operation, as against only 49 per cent at the end of August, 1914.

Among these establishments the number of employees fell to 35 per cent in August, 1914, but increased to 46 per cent in October, 1914; to 58 per cent in January, 1915; to 64 per cent in April, 1915; and to 69 per cent, or 885,314, in July, 1915.

SAN FRANCISCO PIER CONSTRUCTION DESCRIBED.

[Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, San Francisco, Sept. 29.]

A paper read by Jerome Newman, chief engineer of the California Board of State Harbor Commissioners, at the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Association of Port Authorities, describes the variety of construction represented in the piers on San Francisco's water front, and suggests that the problem of the type of pier best adapted to satisfy conditions will be solved, in time, in connection with this variety in design, by an accurate system of maintenance and repair accounts.

The city's water front has a length of 9.75 miles, of which 3.60 miles is at present used for piers and wharves under the control of the board. In this stretch there are 32 piers in service, 2 under construction, and 1 for which a contract is about to be let. Of the piers now in use 2 are supported on untreated wooden piles, 8 on creosoted piles, 2 on wooden piles incased in concrete shells, 11 on cylinders of plain concrete of obsolete type, and 9 on reinforced concrete cylinders of modern type of construction. Of those under construction one is of creosoted the other of concrete piling.

The untreated wooden pile piers and those on cylinders of plain concrete deposited under water are eliminated from consideration on account of their short life, but each of the other types possesses certain theoretical advantages, and Mr. Newman states that more experience will be necessary before it can be stated positively that any one of them should be adopted as the best.

The board's engineer holds that until more is known about the durability of concrete and until conditions with regard to changes in ocean carriers and in freight-handling methods become settled it would be economically unwise to invest large sums in structures which may become obsolete long before they are worn out.

CONTENT OF GASOLINE VAPOR IN AIR DETERMINED.

Two methods for determining the content of gasoline vapor in air have been the subject of experiments and a report by the United States Bureau of Mines. In one the mixture is introduced into an exhausted glass vessel, is cooled at the temperature of liquid air, the air is removed, and finally the partial pressure of the gasoline vapor is measured by means of a manometer attached to the liquefaction bulb. The second method consists in burning the gasoline vapor in oxygen and from the contraction and carbon dioxide produced calculating the percentage of gasoline vapor. Copies of Technical Paper 115, "The inflammability of mixtures of gasoline vapor and air," which has just been issued, may be obtained by applying to the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C.

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

Vice Consul Albert G. Ebert, of Montevideo, whose presence in the United States was announced in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 2, 1915, will be at the New York office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce on October 15. He will be pleased to meet there business men who wish to know about Uruguay and the River Plate region.

JUTE-CROP FORECAST AND WORLD CONSUMPTION

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Dundee, Scotland, Sept. 24; see also **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 23 and Oct. 9, 1915.]

The final official forecast of the current Indian jute crop places the area under cultivation at 2,377,316 acres, with an estimated output of 7,428,733 bales of 400 pounds each. The forecast shows a decrease in area of 972,121 acres, or nearly 30 per cent, as compared with the preceding year, while the estimated output is over 3,000,000 bales short of the previous crop.

The preceding year's acreage had been the second largest in the history of the jute crop, while that for the current year is the smallest since 1903. The crop would be insufficient for the world's requirements were it not for the fact that there is a large carry over from the closing season, practically none of last year's jute having reached the Continent, and there will be no demand for supplies from Belgium, Germany, and Austria.

World's Raw-Jute Consumption.

Estimates differ as to the amount of jute that will be consumed during the present season. Some are of the opinion that the tendency, has always been to overestimate the world's consuming power. A local trade paper estimates that the total consumption for the season of 1915-16 will amount to only 8,580,000 bales, made up of: United Kingdom—Scotland, 1,000,000; England, 25,000; Ireland, 20,000; total, 1,045,000; Continent, 1,150,000; America, 650,000; other countries, 35,000; Indian mills, 5,200,000; and Indian up country, 500,000. Another firm is of the opinion that the total should be some 300,000 bales greater. In any event, it will require the carry over from the last crop to meet even the lowest estimates. It is estimated—and generally admitted to be correct—that there are about 1,500,000 bales of the old crop remaining.

The "marwarries," or native dealers, were successful last year in forcing up prices in spite of the huge crop, and it is feared that they will be even more successful this year in keeping up prices by regulating the much shorter supply to Calcutta. There is a tremendous demand for the manufactured article, and the jute mills of Dundee are all working at high pressure. Prices for all jute fabrics have risen markedly, and manufacturers are reaping a rich harvest.

MOTOR MACHINERY FOR FRENCH FARMS.

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, Sept. 20.]

The French Government has issued an order, dated September 7, 1915, under which subventions may be granted to agricultural syndicates and cooperative associations, also to municipalities, purchasing agricultural motor machinery. The maximum amount the subvention provides for is one-third of the purchase price, except in the districts which have suffered from the war. In the latter case the limit is fixed at one-half of the purchase price. This appears to be an excellent opportunity to increase the sale of American machinery of this description, and the names of the associations through which prospective purchasers can be reached most easily are accordingly submitted herewith.

[This list and the addresses of Marseille dealers in agricultural machinery may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its branches; refer to file 67,109.]

OFFICIAL NUMBERS FOR MERCHANT VESSELS.

The following is a statement of official numbers and signal letters designated to steam screws by the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, during the two weeks ended October 2, 1915:

Name of vessel.	Official number.	Signal letter.	Tonnage.		Year built.	Where built.	Home port.
			Gross.	Net.			
Ethel S.....	213655	-----	19	13	1915	Buffalo, N. Y.....	Buffalo.
Fort Lee.....	213656	-----	1,080	726	1915	Wilmington, Del.....	New York.
Genesee ^b	213659	LFNJ	2,892	1,782	1900	Sunderland, England...	Do.
Geo. H. Johnson.	213637	-----	172	106	1915	Millford, Del.....	Perth Amboy.
Maumee ^c	213660	LFNK	2,556	1,615	1897	W. Hartlepool, England.	New York.
Muskegon ^d	213636	LFPG	3,323	2,127	1897	South Shields, England.	Do.
Winneconne ^e	213661	LFNM	1,869	1,151	1907	Sunderland, England...	Do.

^a Foreign-built vessel admitted to American registry under the act of Aug. 18, 1914.

^b Formerly Danish st. s. Finland.

^d Formerly Danish st. s. Gotland.

^c Formerly Danish st. s. Djursland.

^e Formerly Danish st. s. Hogland.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The total imports and exports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended October 2, 1915, were as follows. Ore, matte, and regulus (copper contents), 3,600,571 pounds, valued at \$417,994; pigs, ingots, and old, etc., 9,858,736 pounds, valued at \$1,713,345. Of the ore, matte, and regulus imported, 1,982,400 pounds came from Cuba and 1,240,017 pounds from Chile. Of the imports of ingots, etc., 2,998,675 pounds came from Chile, 1,978,280 pounds from Canada, 1,490,517 pounds from Japan, and 1,317,678 pounds from Spain.

Of the total domestic exports of copper in pigs, bars, etc., amounting to 16,489,622 pounds, valued at \$2,965,857, 7,628,452 pounds went to Russia, 4,686,763 pounds to England, 2,576,804 pounds to Italy, and 1,402,623 pounds to France.

IDEAL HOME COMPETITION IN AUSTRALIA.

[Sydney Morning Herald, Aug. 31.]

The Institute of Architects has arranged a novel competition in connection with the "Ideal Home Exhibition," shortly to be held at Sydney, and of which 25 per cent of the takings are to be handed over to the Red Cross Society. One of the objects of the exhibition is to stimulate interest in the making of the "ideal home."

In the competition every visitor will be asked to compete (without an entrance fee) in the building, decorating, furnishing, and equipment, as far as possible, of an ideal home from material exhibited at the exhibition. The visitors themselves will judge the competition in the following manner: The winner will be the one whose list of homes and furnishings approximates most closely to that most frequently selected by the whole of the competitors.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**CHINA.**

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, Sept. 8.]

New Building for the Bank of China.

The Hankow branch of the Bank of China has signed a contract for the erection of a new bank building in Hankow, at the cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000 gold. The architects are Atkinson & Dallas (Ltd.), Hankow, and the material is to be brick and reinforced concrete. However, there does not seem to be any opportunity for the extension of American trade for this building.

[Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, Manchuria, Aug. 3.]

Electric Tramway.

It is reported but not confirmed that the board of directors of the Chinese Eastern Railway have awarded the concession to the Russian firm of Barski & Co., at Harbin, to construct an electric tramway between the Pristan and Old Harbin, via New Harbin, and with a branch line to Fuchiatién, the Chinese city. The total length of the line will be about 7 miles and the fare between Old Harbin and the new town is to be fixed at 15 kopecks (equivalent to $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents gold at normal rates of exchange) as compared with the 40 kopecks now charged by the public carriage drivers.

It has been said that the firm of Barski & Co. has some connection with the officials of the Chinese Eastern Railway but this has not been confirmed. A local newspaper of June 24 stated that the construction of the tramway was to begin immediately in order that the laying of the rails might be during the present summer, but no signs of the beginning of work are yet apparent.

HAWAII.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, Sept. 20.]

Extensive Public Works on Four Islands.

In a statement just issued by Charles R. Forbes, superintendent of public works of the Territory of Hawaii, at Honolulu, public works on four islands of the Territory, which will soon be under way, will call for the expenditure of approximately \$1,150,000, apportioned practically as follows: Oahu (including Honolulu), \$680,000; Hawaii, \$295,000; Maui, \$120,000; and Kauai, \$55,000.

In Honolulu the old royal palace, which was built for King Kalakaua and is now used as the Government Building, is to have its first remodeling. An electric elevator, to run from the basement to the attic, has just been installed at a cost of \$40,000, and extensive alterations have been made to the interior to give better office space. The new Territorial penitentiary in the suburbs of Honolulu will be finished by the first of the year at a cost of \$150,000. The reconstruction of three piers on the Honolulu water front will entail an expenditure of \$15,000, while the construction of new reinforced concrete piers at the foot of Fort Street (to be known as Piers 8, 9, and 10) will account for a further \$350,000.

New Wharves and Reservoir.

On the island of Hawaii reconstruction work on the Kuhio wharf at Hilo Bay is being done at a cost of \$15,000, while \$47,000 will be

expended on a wharf shed, \$16,000 on wharf paving, \$12,000 for electrical machinery for conveying sugar and general cargo, and \$43,000 on the road approach from Hilo. On the west coast of this island, at the port of Kailua, a new wharf is to be built at a cost of \$12,500, and a new wharf at Napoopoo will cost \$10,000. About \$87,000 will be expended in completing the round-the-island roads.

On the island of Maui a huge reservoir is being built on the slope of the crater of Haleakala, the largest dead volcano in the world, to cost \$50,000.

On the island of Kauai a new wharf is to be built at the port of Waimea to cost \$30,000.

IRELAND.

[Consul Wesley Frost; Cork (Queenstown), Sept. 28.]

Electrical Power from the Shannon River.

A great hydroelectric power project is on foot in Ireland for the utilization of the tremendous head of water constituted by the western loughs or lakes. The falls of the Shannon, below Lough Derg and Lough Ree, are expected to develop not less than 60,000 horsepower even during summer, and the River Erne, below Lough Erne and Lough Oughter is calculated to be capable of nearly 40,000 horsepower. The idea is to provide electric light and power for all the cities of Ireland, on the general plan of the plants at Niagara and Keokuk in the United States.

While this project has been given some prominence in the Irish press, it appears to be still in the hypothetical stage. Newspaper reports state that a capital of \$5,000,000 has been subscribed and that surveys are actually in progress, but that the necessary authorization will be difficult to secure at this juncture. An engineer whose name has been mentioned in connection with the work has promised to advise this consulate whenever concrete bids or tenders become practicable.

MADEIRA.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Portugal, Sept. 18.]

Road Building—New Hotel—Tourist Cars Needed.

A loan of \$100,000 has been negotiated by the Junta Agricola of Funchal, Madeira, for the completion of a road between the city and Torreiro da Lucta, from 5 to 8 miles. A hotel will be built at the upper terminus. Another work of importance on the island is the construction of a road from the pier at Funchal to the Mount Church, situated at an elevation of 2,000 feet. When the work is completed it is planned to operate 8 or 10 tourist cars. The promoters of the project are Dr. Balthazar Gonçalves and Alfredo Guilherme Rodrigues, to whom automobile firms interested should send catalogues.

PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Portugal, Sept. 21.]

Water and Drainage System—Cottages for Poor People.

The Portuguese Government has authorized the city council of Chaves (Camara Municipal, Chaves) to contract a loan of 120,000 escudos (about \$84,000) for the improvement of the water and drainage system of the municipality and the construction of low-priced

houses which may be used by poor people. The town is in the north of Portugal and has been famous for its mineral waters for more than 200 years.

RUSSIA.

[Consul F. Willoughby Smith, Batum, Aug. 26.]

Slaughterhouse and Refrigerator Plant for the Caucasus.

According to the Kavkaz of August 20, 1915, the Russian Government has decided to construct a large slaughterhouse and refrigerator plant in the Caucasus at either Stavropol or Armavir. American manufacturers interested should communicate in Russian with the Glavnoe Intendantskoe Upravlenie, Petrograd.

The demand for modern machinery for slaughterhouses, refrigerator plants, and cars in Russia is developing rapidly. American manufacturers of these articles are advised to study the requirements of the Russian market, particularly in regard to language, catalogues, quotation of prices, terms, and agencies.

SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Sept. 8.]

Railway Construction.

The Gaceta de Madrid (official organ of the Spanish Government) publishes to-day a royal decree inviting competition in the preparation of drawings, working plans, diagrams, blue prints, etc., for constructing a railway between Manacor and Arta, Island of Majorca, Spain. Conditions of the competition are annexed. The successful competitor will receive preference over other bidders on the construction of the road if he cares to bid on the construction, and, in any event, he receives a substantial commission on the expense of the construction. The competition closes on November 12, 1915.

[Vice Consul Jose M. Gay, Madrid, Sept. 8.]

Proposals for Concession of a Railway from Ferrol to Gijon.

By royal order the "Ministerie de Fomento" requests bids for the concession of a strategical railway from Gijon to Ferrol, with a guarantee of 5 per cent of the Government. The details and specifications are on file in the "Ministerie de Fomento, Seccion de Ferrocarriles," where they may be seen and to which proposals should be presented before November 19, 1915.

ROT AFFECTS ONTARIO POTATO CROP.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Canada, Oct. 4.]

Potato rot has occurred in all parts of the Province of Ontario, and it is estimated that the crop yield will be 25 to 40 per cent less than anticipated. The rot was caused by the continued wet weather this summer. Low lands suffered more than the high or sandy tracts, but from various sources comes the information that even in sandy soil rot is quite conspicuous.

Ontario potatoes are selling to the retail trade at 80 cents a bag (90 pounds) and New Brunswick for 85 to 90 cents a bag, with the prospect that prices will advance considerably in the next month or two. It is too early to predict what potato prices will be a month hence, as the crop is just being dug in Ontario. Toward the end of October a year ago potatoes were selling wholesale for 65 to 70 cents.

AMERICAN GLASSWARE IN THE AZORES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, St. Michaels, Sept. 9.]

A hail storm which struck the western half of St. Michaels recently, causing much destruction among the pineapple hothouses of that section, has brought to light a shortage in local glass stocks. The damage done is estimated at \$25,000, representing entirely broken glass. Every pinery suffered more or less loss, some losing as much as 10,000 panes. The glass imported for this purpose usually measure 12 inches square, although 10 by 12 inch panes are also used.

Glass and glassware imports by the Azores range from \$15,000 to \$83,000 a year and depend largely upon the prosperity of the pineapple industry. At present little or no activity exists in this industry on account of the war, and import statistics probably show a great decline in 1915 importations, as new pineries are not being built for the present. The storm ravages, however, will have to be repaired, and some glass importations are expected.

At present Portugal is the principal source of supply, but there is a disposition to buy in other markets. Thus orders have been placed in recent years in other markets. In 1913 Portugal sold \$83,373 worth of glass to the Azores, or practically all used by the trade, including glassware. Last year, however, out of a total of \$16,557 in imports that country furnished but \$10,310, Germany \$1,394, United States \$1,242, and Great Britain \$588, showing that inroads are being made upon this item of Portuguese trade. The trade believes that foreign glass and glassware is better and stronger than the Portuguese product and although the tariff gives Portuguese producers a big advantage over their competitors in the matter of prices the fact nevertheless remains that the local trade will buy in foreign markets whenever it can possibly do so. This applies especially to glassware, among which should be mentioned tumblers and bottles. The American imports consisted entirely of such articles, despite a duty of 20 reis per kilo or \$0.64 per 100 pounds on bottles and 100 reis per kilo or \$3.20 per 100 pounds on tumblers. Thus far, however, it has been found impossible to import foreign pressed glassware (such as sold in 5 and 10 cent stores in the United States) on account of the tariff. The same may be said of ordinary window panes, which carry a duty of 300 reis per kilo or \$9.59 per 100 pounds. (1 kilo=2.2046 pounds, 1 milreis=1,000 reis=\$0.705.)

While the glass imports have been greatly affected by the war there is little doubt but that the trade will again assume a more or less important position in the trade of the country, especially in view of the large investments represented by the pineries in the island. It is not believed that these investments will be sacrificed. To the contrary, great efforts probably will be made to restore the pineapple industry to its former high position immediately upon the conclusion of peace in Europe.

The estimated number of stock hogs in the United States on September 1 was about 7.2 per cent more than on the corresponding date last year, according to reports made to the Bureau of Crop Estimates, United States Department of Agriculture. Figures given earlier in the year showed that on January 1, 1915, the total number of swine on farms in the United States was 64,618,000, valued at \$637,479,000.

OPPORTUNITIES IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Aug. 17.]

Many letters are received at the Asuncion consulate containing inquiries regarding opportunities for Americans in Paraguay, generally as to opportunities for employment or the prospects of a man with small capital in agricultural or pastoral pursuits.

The opportunities for employment which would warrant making the long and expensive journey to Paraguay are, even during the most favorable times, very limited. The field of unskilled labor is out of the question, as an American could not live on the wages paid to native laborers, with whom he would be in competition. The greater number of the English-speaking population in Paraguay are employed by the railway or the tramway company. The positions in either of these companies which would warrant coming out to Paraguay are in nearly every case filled by men brought from England or the Argentine Republic under contract. Both of these companies have for some time been reducing their working forces.

The cattle business offers practically no field for employment to foreigners. One large cattle company brought to this country a number of cattlemen from the United States; the experiment, however, was not a success, the methods and conditions of the cattle business here being so different from those in the United States that native labor was found to be cheaper and more satisfactory. A concrete example of the scarcity of employment for foreigners at present in Paraguay is found in the fact that practically every day this consulate is visited by Americans of long experience in the country who are seeking employment of any description to tide them over this period of industrial inactivity.

No Opportunities for a Man With Small Capital.

Paraguay in its present state of development does not offer a favorable field for the man with small capital. In mercantile circles there is already an overabundance of small merchants in practically every line. The present crisis will probably result in the failure of many of these small traders.

Agriculture is as yet in such an undeveloped state that the man with small capital would have a difficult time to make a bare living. There is practically no cleared ground for sale. Implements for clearing and developing are costly and labor is inefficient and uncertain. The lack of transportation facilities from one point to another in the Republic and the costly freight rates to markets without the Republic constitute difficulties that would prove serious to the settler with small capital engaged in either agriculture or cattle raising, for it renders him dependent on the local market for the disposition of his products.

There is no Government land available for settlement, neither is there any open cattle range for grazing purposes. Land must be bought or rented. In the case of cattle raising the land must be fenced. It is estimated by cattlemen here that cattle raising can not be carried on profitably on less than a league of land (the Paraguayan league contains 4,633½ acres). A league of land will furnish pasturage for 500 to 800 head of cattle. Land prices run from \$7,000 to \$16,000 per league. Steers are worth, per head, approximately \$25, oxen \$30, cows \$15, bulls \$25 to \$30.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he received in stock during the week ended October 2 the following new United States Government publications of a business character, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Financial Developments in South American Countries, Special Agents Series 103, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Covering the financial conditions of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay, 1914-1915. Price, 5¢.

Soil Reconnoissance in Alaska, with an Estimate of the Agricultural Possibilities.—Comprehensive work on soil and agricultural features of Alaska, covering Cook Inlet-Susitna, the Yukon-Tanana, and the Copper River regions, with many illustrations and maps. Price, 35¢.

Miners' Wash and Change Houses, Mines Bureau Technical Paper 116.—Practical information relative to the construction, location, fitting, etc. Price, 10¢.

Use of Low-Grade Fuel in Europe, Mines Bureau Technical Paper 123.—Embracing the utilization of high-ash coals, wood refuse, powdered fuel, etc. Price, 10¢.

Viscosity of Porcelain Bodies High in Feldspar, Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 59.—Technical work covering tests of viscosity, with comparative tables. Price, 5¢.

Use of Sodium Salts in Purification of Clays and in Casting Process, Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 51.—Technical work covering effect of alkalies, electrical separation, functions of the alkalies, viscosity of clay mixtures, tensile strength, etc. Price, 15¢.

Difference in Weight between Raw and Clean Wools, Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 57.—Covering shrinkage, sampling, weighing, commercial process, etc., with comparative tables. Price, 5¢.

Teaching of Community Civics, Education Bureau Bulletin 23, 1915, reprint.—Interesting work on teaching of civics, prepared by Special Committee of the Commission on Reorganization of Secondary Education. Price, 10¢.

Uses of Commercial Woods of the United States, Part 1, Cedars, Cypresses, and Sequoias, Forest Service Bulletin 95, reprint.—Covering definition of physical properties of wood, and discussions on uses of cedars, cypresses, and sequoias. Price, 10¢.

Enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act, Rules and Regulations for, Agriculture Department Circular 21, new edition.—Covering text of the original law, with all amendments to date and regulations of the department. Price, 5¢.

Nitrogen Processed Fertilizers, Agriculture Department Bulletin 158, reprint.—Covering types of processed fertilizers, chemical examination, with discussion. Price, 5¢.

Production of Sulphuric Acid and the Proposed New Method of Manufacture, Agriculture Department Bulletin 283.—Covering methods of manufacture, factory considerations, etc. Price, 10¢.

Strength Tests of Structural Timbers Treated by Commercial Wood-Preserving Processes, Agriculture Department Bulletin 286.—Summary giving objects of the tests, material tested, methods of treatment, and results. Price, 5¢.

Game Laws for 1915—A Summary of the Provisions Relating to Seasons, Export, Sale, Limits, and Licenses, Farmers' Bulletin 692.—Gives the salient features of the game laws of the various States, with the Federal statute for the protection of migratory birds. Price, 5¢.

Specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture have produced a new and simple device for sampling grain, seeds, and other material. Its purpose is to secure a reliable sample from a larger portion of the material to be examined than would be possible otherwise. The principle is the distribution, by gravity, of the material to be sampled over a cone which is provided with separate ducts in a way to insure thorough mixture of the grain.

C. I. F. QUOTATIONS FOR HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 29.]

The unwillingness of American exporters to meet the customs and needs of Hongkong and other Far Eastern ports in the matter of c. i. f. quotations for goods is costing such exporters a very material share of the business now being placed in almost all lines. Such quotations for Hongkong are almost a necessity from the nature of the trade. The great mass of imports of goods of all classes into Hongkong is handled on what amounts practically to a commission basis. A foreign import house places an order abroad on the basis of an order from Chinese buyers here. To secure such order from the Chinese buyers the foreign house usually finds it necessary to name to the Chinese buyer a definite fixed price so that the buyer will know exactly what his purchase will cost him in Hongkong.

Manifestly it is impracticable, if not impossible, for the foreign importer here to estimate accurately freight and other expenses from the American factory to the seaboard, even where ocean freights are known in advance, and usually the actual freight can not be definitely known, since the size and nature of the packages or cases containing the goods can not be known in advance. Quotations f. o. b. at the factory, therefore, mean that the Hongkong importer shall not only allow for the cost of the goods at the factory and for such freight and other expenses as can be ascertained but it means also that a liberal margin shall be added to such cost and ascertained expenses to cover unknown expenses which can not be accurately foreseen or ascertained in advance. Even in the f. o. b. quotations commonly given by American exporters differences have arisen in that some American manufacturers and exporters have held f. o. b. to mean "prices delivered at seaboard," with all transfer and other expenses attending loading to be paid by the importer here instead of meaning delivery on board the steamer.

It is much more practicable from every standpoint that the exporter ascertain and include in his quotations the cost of the goods at their destination; and, aside from its practicability, this method suits the necessities of trade here from other standpoints. A recent large order for glass was placed in Great Britain instead of in the United States by a Hongkong firm solely because the foreign importer here was in a position to quote a final complete and acceptable price on the English glass, while he was not in a position to indicate what the American glass would cost, though, from the f. o. b. quotation had, it would have probably cost less than the English product. After long experience with traders of various nations, Chinese dealers here insist upon a fixed final price for goods they purchase. They can judge of possible trade for them with their clientele among native dealers and consumers here only when they can know the actual cost in local currency, and this is practicable only on the basis of a definite price fixed at the time the order is given.

A tallowwood tree 42 feet in circumference at the base has been left standing near Wingham, New South Wales. The timber resources and sawmilling operations in that part of Australia were described in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for April 22, 1913.

CONCRETE RESULTS OF TRADE-EXTENSION WORK.

[Consul Lester Maynard, Amoy, China.]

The European war has created a situation which has made it possible to introduce new lines of American goods into the Amoy consular district. The most important direct results of the recent efforts of this consulate to extend trade have been in placing a local German firm in touch with American manufacturers and exporters. This firm formerly was the agent of a European condensed-milk company and had created a considerable demand for the European article. Upon the outbreak of hostilities in Europe the agency was taken from it and a branch house established for supplying milk to this district. Through a trade opportunity transmitted by the Amoy consulate the firm has secured the agency for an American brand, and there is every possibility of its being able to hold its old trade and supply its former customers with American milk.

Members of the German firm referred to have also availed themselves of the catalogues and trade directories in this consulate and are in communication with New York houses regarding chemical fertilizers, piece goods, thread, and dyes.

American Tin Plate, Laundry Machinery, and Provisions.

A trade opportunity on tin has resulted in an Amoy tinning company making satisfactory arrangements with the Shanghai office of an American steel-products company and it is now using American tin in the manufacture of cans. As the local plant uses about 5,000 boxes of tin per annum this gain is important.

On April 29, 1914, a trade opportunity was forwarded advising that the Hope and Wilhelmina Hospitals required certain machinery. [This was published as Trade Opportunity 13207, in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for June 13, 1914.] The physician in charge now states that from the catalogues received and as a result of the trade opportunity one boiler, one engine, one washing machine, and one drying machine have been ordered, and that if these articles prove satisfactory further orders will be placed from the catalogues on hand.

As a result of changed conditions due to the European war it has been possible to make considerable headway in the introduction of American provisions of various kinds into the Amoy district. By the distribution of catalogues and price lists and by explaining to retailers the advantages of direct importations several orders have been placed, principally in San Francisco, for goods of this description.

Attracting Merchants to Catalogue Library.

Various methods have been tried at this consulate to attract merchants to its catalogue library. Formerly a detailed index of catalogues on file was printed annually and copies supplied to all who might be interested, but the results did not justify the expense, as the index was either lost by the merchant or not thought of at the time when he desired to purchase goods.

A new method is now being tried. Upon receipt of a new catalogue a circular letter is forwarded to the firms likely to be interested,

in the hope of bringing a representative to the consulate, so that various catalogues may be shown and explained to him. This method has just been introduced, and it is difficult to say whether it will prove successful or not. Whenever possible a member of the staff of this consulate is sent with a new catalogue, to show it to the merchants who might become interested, but as the staff is much overworked there is little time to systematically carry out this method, and, in addition, it is always better to get the merchant to visit the catalogue library, where it is almost certain his requirements can be met.

Cooperating With the Consular Service.

One of the most difficult parts of trade-extension work is the failure of the American manufacturer or exporter or his distributing agent abroad to notify the consul of the placing of agencies or of the sale of goods as a result of a "trade opportunity" emanating from his office. The apparent indifference of the exporter after he has secured one order and his failure to advise the consulate make it difficult for the consul to know whether or not he is approaching the problem in the right manner; and it is usually by chance and in an indirect way that he learns of success, and sometimes long after the transaction is closed. This gives him little or no opportunity to follow up his initial efforts. A little cooperation would not alone greatly encourage the officer but would show him the weakness or strength of his methods and would enable him to follow the successful lines to the gain of American exporters.

NEW DRY DOCK FOR ROTTERDAM.

[Consul General S. Listoe, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 13.]

An automatic dry dock, built by the Netherlands Shipbuilding Co., of Amsterdam, for the Wilton's Machine Works & Shipbuilding Yard, at Rotterdam, arrived here a few days ago. As the dock was too bulky to pass the locks of the North Sea Canal, it has been built on land at Schellingwoude, outside the Orange Locks, and after completion it was towed to Rotterdam by way of the Zuider Zee, past Helder.

The dock consists of three sections, coupled together and admitting of being uncoupled. Its end sections are pointed. It has eight water-tight cross bulkheads, three water-tight bulkheads lengthwise, and four water-tight coupling bulkheads, constituting the two coupling chambers. The dock will be provided with three main pumps of 90 horsepower each, able to work combined or separately. Besides these there will be three wash pumps, each provided with a motor of 35 horsepower. All pumps are of the centrifugal type with vertical axle.

The pumps are to be worked from a service building on the deck of the air compartment of the middle section of the dock. Here are also the main switchboard, the water indicator, and the air compressor with motor.

The new dock has a lifting capacity of 12,500 to 13,000 tons, and can accommodate ships measuring up to 13,000 registered tons.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Medical supplies, No. 2697.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until October 20, 1915, for furnishing and delivering 10,000 spools zinc adhesive plaster, 500 canvas covers, and 200 folding stools.

Shipbuilding ways, No. 2698.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 13, 1915, for shipbuilding ways and roadway to building ways at the navy yard, Charleston, S. C. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Hulls, No. 2699.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Milwaukee, Wis., until October 25, 1915, for furnishing two motor-boat hulls. Blank proposals and particulars may be had on application to the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2700.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 20, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following articles: Pneumatic hoists, hydraulic jacks, magnetic chucks, spring steel, pig iron, pig lead, malleable-iron castings, bronze bars, nails, twist drills, reamers, pipe wrenches and parts, gongs, water-closets, building brick, fire brick, fire clay, foundry clay, silica grit, silica sand, thumb tacks, mucilage, wrapping paper, blue-print paper, putty, sal soda, coal tar, sal ammoniac, carbon bisulphide, fish oil, alcohol, varnish, linseed oil, japan drier, shellac, white zinc, red lead, white lead, lampblack, and paints. Circular No. 976.

Construction work, No. 2701.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 18, 1915, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the United States post office at Boise, Idaho. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at Boise or from the Washington office.

Medical supplies, No. 2702.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York City, until October 18, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at that depot 500 cases of toilet paper and 72 rolling invalid chairs.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2703.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 18, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon, Balboa, Canal Zone (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following articles: Frames and covers for flooding and sluice valves, circular steel stairways, crane runways, ladders and cutter heads for dredge, switch points, frogs, cast-iron face and floor plates, lathe, upright drill, switchboards, voltmeter, steel cable, barbed wire, steel or iron pipe, copper tubing, bronze-wire cloth, wire staples, rivets and burrs, chisels, blacksmith flatters, files, blacksmith punches, hammers, hatchets, saws, saw blades, scythe blades, tinner's shears, taps, reamers, stocks and dies, drills, bits, vises, carpenter's braces, portable forges, wrenches, snaths, oars, oarlocks, rakes, fusible plugs, marine clocks, steam gauges, water gauges, steam whistles, automobile bells, marine lights, steam-gauge lamps, oil cups, grease cups, window glass, water coolers, china-ware, agate cups and pitchers, glass pitchers, drinking glasses, cake griddles, soup spoons, door mats, towels, cork board, leather fillets, asbestos cement, rubber bands, paper clips, pencils, bond paper, and lumber. Circular No. 974.

Hoisting engine, No. 2704.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until October 25, 1915, for furnishing a four-drum, double-cylinder hoisting engine for United States lighthouse tender *Larkspur*. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2705.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 4, 1915, for furnishing fuel oil, by steamer, free of all charges, at either Cristobal (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama. Circular No. 977.

Vault, No. 2706.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 2, 1915, for the removal of the old and installation of a new vault door and the enlargement of the vault (including the installation of lining plates, metal vault equipment, and electric conduits and wiring) opening into the cashier's room, in the United States post office at Buffalo, N. Y. Copies of drawings, specifications, etc., may be had on application to the Washington office or to the custodian of the building in Buffalo.

PAPUAN OIL WELLS.

Writing from the Vailal oil fields to the Department of External Affairs on July 21, the Australian Commonwealth Government oil expert (Dr. Wade) gives details of a quantity of oil obtained from the Papuan wells, which he had sent to Port Moresby for dispatch to Melbourne.

Dr. Wade states that he has sent 60 gallons, obtained from the Cypher bore, which is equal to the contents of two American barrels. This might be considered as the first actual shipment of oil from the territory of Papua or British New Guinea. The plans for developing the petroleum deposits in Papua were fully described in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for March 4, 1915.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 17.]

According to local press reports just published on unemployment in this country on August 1, rendered by 32 trade societies, the number of workless people was 9,893, a reduction from 10,538 July 1. This reduction was almost entirely in the diamond-working trade.

The number of unemployed in all these trades was 19,387 on September 1, 1914. The number has gradually decreased each following month.

The percentage of unemployment ranges from nothing up to 59 in these trades, the average being around 20.

COTTON IN THE CAUCASUS.

[Consul F. Willoughby Smith, Batum, Russia, Sept. 7.]

The Chamber of Commerce of Tiflis reports that from January 1 to June 1, 1915, 144,450 bales (of 500 pounds) of raw cotton were shipped from the Caucasus to central Russia. The raw cotton remaining in the Caucasus is estimated at 7,225 bales (of 500 pounds). Owing to unfavorable climatic conditions the quality is below the average.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

- Valves*, No. 18702.—A firm in Burma informs an American consular officer that it wishes to correspond with American manufacturers and exporters of valves. Catalogue and full information should be sent at once.
- Coloring materials*, No. 18703.—A business man in the United States writes the Department of Commerce that one of his correspondents in India desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of materials to be used in coloring yarn.
- Rubber goods, electrical supplies, etc.*, No. 18704.—An American consular officer in India reports that a company in his district desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of rubber surgical and medical goods, electrical supplies, such as lamps, globes, shades, brackets, fixtures, fans, etc. It is explained that cheap goods are generally popular in that district. The firm will arrange to pay cash against shipping documents forwarded through the foreign banks. Correspondence may be in English.
- Lamps, patent medicines, etc.*, No. 18705.—A wholesale and retail merchant in Africa writes an American consular officer that he desires to receive catalogues and full information relative to lamps, patent medicines, shears and scissors, wire nails, etc. Quotations are desired c. i. f. destination, if possible. Correspondence may be in English.
- Wood*, No. 18706.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that one of its correspondents in the Netherlands desires to represent American exporters of mahogany, walnut, oak, satin walnut, cypress, pitch pine, maple, etc.
- Waterproof paper, roofing materials, etc.*, No. 18707.—An American consular officer in Burma transmits the name and address of a firm in his district which desires to receive full information relative to a sole agency for the sale of waterproof paper, roofing materials, etc. Prices should be made c. i. f. destination.
- Enamel powder*, No. 18708.—An American consular officer in Siberia transmits a letter from a business man in his district who desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of enamel (powder and ground) for making iron-enameled signs. Samples of the material desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file 66686.) The man requests that a sample lot of 100 kilos each of powder and ground enamel be sent at once. He is willing to make the necessary deposit to cover the cost of such samples.
- Cigarette paper*, No. 18709.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of cigarette paper.
- Sulphate of barium*, No. 18710.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a professional man in Spain desires to communicate with American firms which are interested in the development of deposits of sulphate of barium.
- Glue*, No. 18711.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Cuba who desires to communicate with American manufacturers of glue made from collected refuse.
- Galvanized-iron pipe and cement*, No. 18712.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to obtain catalogues and full information relative to galvanized-iron pipe and cement.
- Chemicals and dyes*, No. 18713.—A firm in India informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of chemicals and dyes.
- Pork*, No. 18714.—The Bureau has received a letter from a firm in British Guiana expressing its desire to establish connections with American packers of fatback pork.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 240 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 13 1915

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SPECIAL GOODS NEEDED IN SPAIN.

[Cablegram from the American Consulate, Seville, Oct. 8.]

There is a shortage here of knitted and cotton gloves, metal dress fasteners, and rubber overshoes.

AMERICAN CANNED TOMATOES IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, Sept. 15.]

Owing to war conditions, difficulties have arisen in securing the supplies of canned tomatoes and purée usually obtained from Italy, and of late large quantities of these American goods have been noticed in the Leeds grocery stores. Inquiries indicate that they have not been imported direct, but have been secured from large importing houses in Liverpool. Good sales are reported, and there is no doubt but that there will be a continued steady market in Leeds for these products.

[A list of Leeds wholesale grocers may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 66037.]

FRANCE REGULATES SALE OF FROZEN MEAT.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, American Embassy, Paris, Sept. 11.]

In order to regulate the sale of frozen meat in Paris, the Prefect of Police has decided that imported frozen meat, placed in cold storage under the direction of the Bourse du Commerce, can be sold only after examination by the veterinary inspectors, and when sold must bear a stamp indicating that the meat is imported frozen meat.

Every piece of frozen meat thus imported, weighing more than 3 kilos (6.61 pounds), must bear a ticket with the required inscription; and all invoices for the meat, whether wholesale or retail, must legibly specify the net weight, nature, and price per kilo of the goods sold. All meat must be labeled by retail butchers, indicating the price.

GREEK IMPORTS OF AMERICAN WHEAT AND FLOUR.

[Vice Consul Alfred R. Thomson, Saloniki, Sept. 8.]

The Saloniki wheat market is now being supplied almost entirely by the United States. Comparative statistics showing the importation of this cereal at Saloniki during the first six months of 1914 and 1915 show that of a total of 5,105.7 metric tons (1 ton=2,204.6 pounds) imported during the first half of the present year, 4,781.2 tons were of American origin. Attention is also drawn to the fact that the importation of wheat during the first six months of the current year was less than one-half of the amount imported in the corresponding period of 1914. The amounts for the corresponding periods of the two years are:

Countries of origin.	1914	1915	Countries of origin.	1914	1915
	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>		<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>
January—			May—		
United States		106.5	Turkey	0.8	
Old Greece		25.6	Roumania	1,887.5	
February—			United States		220.0
Italy	0.4		Old Greece		31.7
United States		1,243.1	June—		
Egypt		14.5	Bulgaria	58.7	
March—			Russia	1,599.3	
United States		1,635.9	United States		1,510.9
April—			Total	11,013.4	5,105.7
Roumania	7,465.6				
United States		264.8			
Old Greece		52.7			
Turkey	1.1				

Large Importation of American Flour.

There is a large importation of American flour in this market. During the first six months of 1915 the United States supplied 6,390 metric tons of the total of 7,341.3 tons of flour received at this port. (One metric ton=2,204.6 pounds.)

During the corresponding period of 1914 the United States supplied this market with only 712 metric tons of flour, out of a total importation of 8,062.8 tons. The flour was imported chiefly from Germany, Italy, Roumania, and Bulgaria. The amounts for 1915 by months are:

Countries of origin.	Flour imports.	Countries of origin.	Flour imports.	Countries of origin.	Flour imports.
	<i>Metric tons.</i>		<i>Metric tons.</i>		<i>Metric tons.</i>
January—		March—		May—	
United States	375.8	United States	986.3	United States	1,233.7
Egypt	578.6	Egypt	77.6	Egypt	17.0
Old Greece	17.3	Old Greece	24.3	Old Greece	64.0
February—		April—		June—	
United States	1,847.4	United States	1,606.6	United States	283.2
Egypt	35.6	Egypt	45.1	Egypt	21.6
Old Greece	42.9	Old Greece	27.3	Total	7,341.3

THE RAILWAYS OF PERU.

Consul General William W. Handley, of Callao, has transmitted a 300-page history of the railways of Peru. The book, which is printed in the Spanish language, is replete with maps and photographs and describes in detail the railway development of that Republic up to 1908. The volume may be seen on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 66711.

WELSH COAL MINERS GET INCREASED WAGES.

[Vice Consul William L. Jenkins, Swansea, Sept. 15.]

The independent chairman of the South Wales coal conciliation board, on September 14, 1915, gave his decision on the application of the South Wales Miners' Federation for an increase in the wage rate. The miners applied for a 12.5 per cent advance, and the mine owners made a counteroffer of 5 per cent. As the parties were unable to agree, the independent chairman was called in for a deciding vote. He granted the workmen their full demands.

The existing percentages were 18½ above the new 1915 standard (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* of Aug. 19, 1915, p. 886), or 72.5 per cent above the old 1879 standard. The recent award will make the existing wages 30¾ per cent above the new, or 96¼ per cent above the old standard. This means that the workmen will be paid at the rate of 36¼ per cent in excess of the maximum limit specified in the recently expired agreement. This new advance will be made retroactive to August 21, in accordance with the Government award.

In money terms the minimum wage of the coal miner prior to the new award was \$11.88 a week. With the present 12.5 per cent addition, this minimum will be raised to \$13.36 a week. A local newspaper makes the following comment: "Miners in the coal field are at present in a prosperous state, especially when it is borne in mind that not more than 2 per cent of the coal hewers are down to the minimum limit. The money earned by the lowest paid laborer in the coal field, as apart from the various other more highly paid classes, will now be \$8.89 per week."

[A report on coal-mining profits in the South Wales field was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 28, 1915, giving financial statements as presented to shareholders at the annual meetings of the companies.]

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CHEMISTRY OF GAS MANUFACTURE.

A bibliography of the chemistry of gas manufacture has just been issued by the United States Bureau of Mines. The references in this bibliography are selected from a much larger list, gathered by the Bureau during several years of research work on problems dealing with the chemical behavior of hydrocarbons. No attempt is made to cover every phase of gas manufacture, including the construction and operation of plants, the object being to present a bibliography of carefully chosen references dealing with the chemistry of gas making and the chemical changes involved in the production of combustible gases.

In view of the fact that there is no such published bibliography, the list, together with its cross references, is published by the Bureau of Mines in the hope that it will serve as an efficient guide for investigators, chemists, and engineers, and for operators of gas plants.

Copies of this document, Technical Paper 120, may be obtained by addressing the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C.

The low price of silver has not noticeably lessened mining and development in the Cobalt camp, says the Canadian Government Labor Gazette. The price of silver, which it mentioned as 47 cents per ounce, has since gone up, and is now about 50.6 cents.

RECENT AMERICAN TRADE STATISTICS.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending October 9, 1915, at thirteen principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah)	\$8,639	\$445	\$402,181
Massachusetts (Boston).....	3,285,584	139,173	1,363,777
New York	20,335,747	2,833,140	38,984,083
Philadelphia	989,781	262,864	2,998,703
Maryland (Baltimore)	490,562	85,877	2,077,080
Virginia (Norfolk)	14,036	41,817	1,509,348
New Orleans	1,287,627	70,959	2,636,806
Galveston	224,058	2,933	8,161,906
San Francisco	1,604,431	62,551	1,649,433
Washington (Seattle)	2,216,422	24,715	2,238,434
Buffalo	746,134	10,965	1,835,354
Chicago	532,798	114,659	.....
Michigan (Detroit)	580,811	41,025	3,987,846
Total	32,364,630	3,691,113	67,744,927

The above figures show a favorable balance on merchandise transactions for the week ending October 9 in the 13 customs districts of \$35,380,297. The 13 districts cited handled about 91 per cent of the import and export business of the country, based on the transactions in July, 1915.

Cotton exported during the week ending October 9 amounted to 156,365 bales, making the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 811,484 bales.

GUATEMALA DESIRES UNITED STATES EXHIBITS.

The Government of Guatemala has indicated, through its consular service, that it believes there would be mutual advantages if American manufacturers and exporters were to avail themselves of the opportunity to send exhibits to the National Exposition of Guatemala and Fiesta of Minerva, which will be held in Guatemala City, capital of the Republic, for two weeks, beginning October 31. A special invitation has been extended for exhibits from the Gulf Coast.

There will be no customs fees for any articles that may be submitted for this exposition, and space in the pavilions will be free to exhibitors. The only cost to be met will be that of transportation between the United States and Guatemala City. Each individual exhibit, however, is limited to 800 pounds, and where the weight exceeds 800 extra transportation will be charged at the exposition city.

Special facilities, it is stated, will be afforded to make the results as beneficial as possible to those who may participate in the enterprise. Competent Spanish demonstrators will be in charge, and literature in Spanish and English will be distributed in regard to the goods shown.

A special agent of the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, who is now in the Gulf States, has taken up the matter of sending exhibits from those States, particularly with makers of cotton sacks. Goods should be addressed to El Señor Director de Exposición, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

PORT STATISTICS FOR PIRÆUS, JANUARY-JUNE.

[Vice Consul George P. Waller, Jr., Athens, Greece, Sept. 11.]

Statistics showing the movement of steamships and sailing vessels at Piræus, which is the port of Athens, have been made public by the port commission of Piræus. One of the most interesting features in the shipping situation here is the tremendous increase in the activities of the Greek merchant marine since the cutting off by the war of certain foreign lines which were formidable competitors of the local companies. This has resulted in enormous profits, and the indications are that these native organizations are so firmly intrenching themselves that they will probably retain a large part of the business after the war. The port statistics for the first six months of 1915 are: Number of vessels arrived and cleared, 3,903; gross tonnage, 2,460,816; net tonnage, 1,470,706; arrived from interior ports, 1,385; tonnage (gross), 973,785; arrived from foreign ports, 643; gross tonnage, 1,487,031; net tonnage, 892,256. According to nationality and tonnage, the arrivals and departures were:

Nationalities of ships.	Entered and cleared.	Gross tonnage.	Net tonnage.
Steamers—			
Greek	1,632	1,435,731	785,518
French	(a)	242,733	144,512
Italian	181	474,813	283,177
British	113	244,628	150,408
Russian	2	6,074	3,695
Danish	1	562	147
Roumanian	1	2,260	1,462
Dutch	1	19,513	11,532
Swedish	1	415	116
Belgian	9	12,121	7,543
Norwegian	1	1,659	1,073
American	14	10,242	6,244
Brazilian	1	1,367	789
Persian	9	8,699	5,137
Sailing vessels—			
Greek	1,804		63,955
French	(a)		1,228
Italian	57		3,984
British	2		120
Turkish	2		66

a Not given.

SHIPBUILDING ACTIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, American Legation, The Hague, Aug. 27.]

Shipbuilding in the Netherlands has been active during the first half of 1915. Fourteen new steamships and one motor boat, of a total net tonnage of 31,055, were completed, and 64 steamers, of 269,000 net tons, were in process at the end of June. Besides these, 6 steamers, of 12,432 net tons, were bought from foreign yards. The whole Netherlands merchant marine, on June 30, 1915, included 460 steamers of 890,964 net tons.

[A previous report on active Dutch shipyards was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Mar. 4, 1915.]

The Chinese post office now handles yearly over 4,000,000 parcels, weighing 30,000,000 pounds.

YEAR'S RECORD SHOWS RADIO'S VALUE IN SAVING LIVES.

During the fiscal year 1915 the radio inspectors of the United States Bureau of Navigation reported 26 cases of vessels leaving American ports which met with accident or disaster, requiring the use of wireless to summon assistance. Four of these were from fire; 12 were from running ashore, stranding, or getting into an ice jam; 3 were from the breakage of machinery; 4 resulted from collisions; 1 from shifting of cargo; 1 vessel was storm-battered and water-logged; and 1 was torpedoed. Excepting in the case of the *Lusitania*, which was torpedoed, the assistance thus rendered resulted in but two lives being lost. Since the close of the fiscal year the disasters occurring have been:

On September 13, 1915, the Fabre Line steamship *Sant' Anna*, bound from New York to Naples with 1,700 Italian reservists and crew aboard, caught fire in mid-ocean and all persons on board were saved. The SOS call brought the steamship *Ancona* to the assistance of the disabled vessel and 600 persons were taken off. The *Sant' Anna* then proceeded to port, convoyed by the *Ancona*, and the entire 1,700 passengers and crew were saved.

Six days after the *Sant' Anna* disaster the Greek liner *Athinai*, bound from New York to Piraeus, caught fire in mid-ocean and was abandoned by the passengers and crew, numbering 470. The call for assistance was answered by the steamships *Tuscania* and *Roumanian Prince*; 341 persons were taken on board the *Tuscania*, the remaining 129 being taken off by the *Roumanian Prince*. The vessel was entirely destroyed.

The use of radio apparatus on vessels carrying passengers or with 50 or more in the crew is now accepted as essential to the safety of those on board, and the report of the *Athinai* shows conclusively that many persons might have been lost and perhaps the cause of the disaster never known had not this vessel been equipped with radio apparatus.

IMPORTS OF POTASH SALTS.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the imports of potash salts into the United States during the month of August and the eight months ending August, 1914 and 1915. The items are so grouped as to show the potash salts used chiefly as fertilizers and other potash salts. The ton given is the long ton of 2,240 pounds.

Articles.	August—				Eight months ending August—			
	1914		1915		1914		1915	
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Fertilizer salts:								
Kainit	25,327	\$119,578	.....	.....	317,205	\$1,484,140	6,646	\$24,818
Manure salts	15,551	160,371	.....	.....	150,973	1,628,167	13,647	201,802
Sulphate of potash ..	2,931	124,316	526	\$54,470	30,696	1,310,618	10,627	603,890
Muriate of potash ..	8,499	272,554	79	11,532	151,395	5,109,404	56,800	2,134,712
Other potash salts:								
Carbonate of potash ..	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
ash	684,016	22,927	358,592	3,287	13,035,605	377,896	8,640,608	269,601
Hydrate of potash ..	363,226	13,394	.....	.....	5,081,483	192,996	2,028,142	99,103
Nitrate of potash ..	312,809	10,542	.....	.....	2,229,856	74,743	14,855	1,477
Cyanide of potash ..	16,912	2,695	.....	.....	318,087	44,026	862,127	132,409
Other potash salts ..	313,863	30,578	196	22	4,067,764	309,063	2,075,741	205,751

QUICKSILVER AND VERMILION AT HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 25.]

The demand for quicksilver in Hongkong has become quite acute in the past few weeks with the result that present holders are almost able to fix their own prices for their holdings. Several inquiries have been received at this consulate general of late as to the supply in and prices of quicksilver from the United States.

As indicated in previous reports from this consulate general considerable quantities of this metal are imported into Hongkong each year for the manufacture of vermilion. The chief source of the supply of metal, or rather of cinnabar, the chief ore, has been in China in the vicinity of Yochow. This district has furnished the vermilion industry in Hongkong with the mineral for many years. The supply of quicksilver from year to year has varied greatly, the exports of the metal from China, for example, being 107,066 pounds in 1910; 40,933 pounds in 1911; 9,466 pounds in 1912; 4,666 pounds in 1913, with recovery to 131,466 pounds in 1914, with a customs valuation of \$69,869. There are no details as to the export of cinnabar, since this ore is not specified in the customs returns, but the course of the trade recently is indicated by the fact that the export of cinnabar from Yochow in 1914 was placed at 61,600 pounds, as compared with 26,000 pounds in the previous year. Of the exports of quicksilver, Hongkong on an average takes about 80 per cent of the whole. The trade ran a regular course in increasing volume up to 1910, since when, as a result of political and other disturbances in the portion of China, whence the supply has been obtained, it has steadily declined until last year.

While last year's production was a return to the former volume of the trade, the supply of quicksilver and cinnabar from China has not been sufficient for the vermilion industry here and for the export of quicksilver itself, which has been undertaken in considerable volume at times. In the course of the trade, especially in recent years, considerable quantities of quicksilver and cinnabar have been imported from Germany and Japan. These sources of supply have been shut off of late, and this has given rise to the special demand for the metal or ore from the United States at the present time.

The metal is imported in flasks containing about 80 pounds, which are returned for refilling. At present the metal is selling as high as \$300, local currency, or about \$122 gold, per picul of 133½ pounds, as compared with about \$130, local currency, or \$55.90 gold, per picul a year ago. There is a very small stock now on hand, and the vermilion industry is almost at a standstill for the time being. The export of vermilion has fallen off considerably of late as a result of the condition of the quicksilver trade. Vermilion is now quoted in the Hongkong market at from \$140 to \$160, local currency, or from \$58.80 to \$67.20 gold, per case. Formerly the product was packed in small packets containing a Chinese tael or 1½ ounces to a package and 1,000 packages to the case. At present the packets contain about 0.88 of a tael, or 1.17 ounces, to the packet with 900 packets to the case, or about 66 pounds avoirdupois to the case, net.

Five new Japanese consulates in Manchuria and three in eastern Mongolia are proposed in the Government budget at Tokio for 1916.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

AUSTRALIA.

[Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 80, July 24, 1915.]

Prohibition of Electric and Magnetic Belts.

A proclamation of the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, dated July 21, 1915, prohibits the importation into Australia of electric or magnetic belts, or of any belt which is alleged or intended to produce a therapeutic effect by electric or magnetic influences.

[Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 91, Aug. 14, 1915.]

Prohibition of Silencers for Firearms.

The importation into Australia of Maxim and other similar silencers for use with firearms is prohibited by a proclamation of August 11, 1915.

BRITISH GUIANA.

[Official Gazette (Extraordinary), Aug. 16, 1915.]

Increase in Duties and Taxes.

An ordinance enacted by the Government of British Guiana August 16, 1915, and immediately effective, provides for an export duty of \$0.01 per proof gallon on rum and of \$0.035 per 100 pounds on rice exported from the colony. The import duties on brandy, gin, whisky, and other sweetened and unsweetened spirits are increased \$0.05 per proof gallon, and on spirits, the strength of which is not to be tested, \$0.05 per liquid gallon. Another ordinance of the same date increases the internal tax on rum and compounded and other spirits \$0.05 per proof gallon and on bank checks from \$0.02 to \$0.04 each.

CANADA.

[Customs Memorandum No. 1049B, Sept. 20, 1915.]

Prohibition of Unset Diamonds.

By an order in council of September 20, 1915, the importation into Canada of unset diamonds is prohibited, except when imported direct from the United Kingdom.

COLOMBIA.

[Gaceta de Cundinamarca, Bogota, July 30, 1915.]

Tax on Commercial Travelers.

A decree of the governor of the Department of Cundinamarca of July 22, 1915, transmitted by American Minister T. A. Thomson, Bogota, establishes a tax on commercial travelers representing foreign business concerns or manufacturers in that department. Under penalty of twice the amount of the tax for failure to register within 10 days, all commercial travelers subject to the tax must register at an alcaidia (municipal office) and pay the prescribed fee. During the first year of their residence in the Department of Cundinamarca commercial travelers must pay \$25 gold per month for each foreign house which they represent and for the second year the tax is \$20 per month, after which no tax is imposed. Those claiming exemption from this tax must prove that they have resided in the department

and have represented foreign firms for at least two years prior to the enactment of the present decree. [Owing to the absence of European traveling representatives at the present time, the decree will practically apply only to the American trade. The decree is important also in that the city of Bogota, the capital of Colombia, is situated in the Department of Cundinamarca.]

NORWAY.

[Board of Trade Journal, July 22 and Aug. 19, 1915.]

Tariff Changes.

The following are the most important changes in and additions to the Norwegian customs tariff which have recently been enacted and are now in effect:

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rates of duty.	
		New.	Old.
	Alge boiler compounds.....	Crowns per kilo.	
	NOTE.—Other boiler compounds may also be admitted free of duty.	Free.	
60	Cotton goods not specified, printed	0.90	1.10
	Plate or sheet glass:		
158	Silvered—		
	1. With ground surfaces or edges .....	.35	.30
189	Not silvered—		
	1. With ground surfaces or edges .....	.25	.20
196	Glassware not specified:		
	a. Ground, etched, sand-blasted, painted, gilt, or decorated otherwise than by pressing or molding .....	.50	.35
	b. Other kinds.....	.15	.35
	NOTE.—Lamp globes and chimneys and glass goods covered with wickerwork are not included under Nos. 196 ^a or 196 ^b .		
302	Cork stoppers, not mounted, more than 31 mm. long	1.50	.50
605	Shoemakers' wares:		
	Of skin or leather not specified	1.50	2.00
606	Seaboots and other footwear of oiled leather.....	1.00	1.50

The free admission of rye, rye flour, and fresh potatoes, and the reduced tonnage and lighthouse dues of 40 öre per ton have been extended to cover all ports in the Amt of Finmark.

Pneumatic drills for mines and quarries, formerly admitted free of duty as machines and apparatus not manufactured in the country, are now dutiable at 10 per cent ad valorem under No. 393.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES IN ENGLISH PENNY BAZAARS.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, Sept. 13.]

Prior to the declaration of war a large percentage of the articles sold in the Leeds 1d. (2 cents), 3d. (6 cents), and 6d. (12 cents) bazaars were of Continental manufacture. When these supplies were cut off British, French, Japanese, and American manufacturers immediately stepped into the breach, with the result that the trade has not suffered; in fact, 1915 is proving a record year. The numbers of articles now on sale from Japan and the United States are particularly noticeable. In one large store, which is run by a company having a chain of stores throughout the United Kingdom, the quantities of American goods lately displayed on the counters have caused considerable comment.

[A list of the Leeds bazaars will be furnished upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branches. Refer to file No. 66935.]

FOREIGN TRADE OF BRAZIL FOR HALF YEAR.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 4.]

Brazilian exports do not seem to have suffered greatly from the European war, for the principal purchasers, the United States and Great Britain, have continued to take more than 50 per cent of the total. There have been no exports to Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Belgium, direct, during 1915, but those to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden have increased nearly tenfold as compared with those of 1914, and those to Holland nearly twofold. (An indication as to this indirect trade was furnished in a dispatch from this office, published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 25, 1915.)

Values of Exports and Imports for Corresponding Periods.

The values of imports and exports, classified by the principal countries of origin and destination, for the first six months of 1913, 1914, and 1915, in terms of United States currency, were:

Countries.	Imported from.			Exported to.		
	1913	1914	1915	1913	1914	1915
United States	\$27,721,000	\$15,294,000	\$17,799,000	\$45,018,000	\$49,960,000	\$43,451,000
Great Britain	43,549,000	25,914,000	14,988,000	23,173,000	21,494,000	17,500,000
Germany	28,240,000	23,198,000	1,828,000	19,835,000	19,749,000	.....
France	16,820,000	9,737,000	3,149,000	13,874,000	11,977,000	12,841,000
Austria-Hungary	2,692,000	1,370,000	158,000	4,810,000	4,257,000	.....
Argentina	12,238,000	11,287,000	12,638,000	6,805,000	5,424,000	5,858,000
Belgium	8,878,000	4,144,000	105,000	2,727,000	4,257,000	.....
Denmark	257,000	268,000	243,000	312,000	283,000	2,523,000
Netherlands	1,509,000	770,000	509,000	5,583,000	7,085,000	10,991,000
Italy	7,022,000	4,410,000	3,318,000	1,851,000	1,467,000	2,519,000
Norway	1,653,000	1,611,000	1,440,000	182,000	185,000	1,536,000
Portugal	7,414,000	5,130,000	3,209,000	810,000	1,423,000	1,606,000
Sweden	743,000	563,000	586,000	917,000	997,000	8,986,000
Other countries	11,457,000	11,046,000	6,086,000	8,350,000	5,407,000	8,888,000
Total	170,191,000	114,738,000	66,034,000	134,247,000	133,955,000	116,699,000

Coffee has been by far the most important export product, constituting more than 50 per cent of the total value in each year since 1912. A striking illustration of the greatly reduced prices of this important article is afforded in the fact that in 1912, 4,109,000 sacks brought \$76,652,000, or an average of about \$19 per sack; whereas in 1915, nearly twice as much coffee, or 7,550,000 sacks, brought but \$70,277,000, or less than \$9 per sack, a decrease of more than 50 per cent in price.

Great Increase in Exports of Sugar.

The high prices for sugar throughout the world have increased sevenfold the quantities of sugar exported, as compared with last year, and have increased the values nearly tenfold. The State of Pernambuco, where the financial situation continues promising in spite of the general depression, has profited most by this condition.

In quantities actually exported, rubber exports have fluctuated but little. Here, too, low prices abroad have caused a decrease in export values.

Cotton shows a tremendous decrease both in quantity and value. This may, perhaps, be due to the shutting down of English mills and the large cotton crop in the United States.

AMERICAN TESTS OF HAWAIIAN KUKUI OIL.

According to the Honolulu Star Bulletin of September 1, a thorough test is to be made in the United States of various raw materials from the Hawaiian Islands, including kiawe beans, honey and wax, kukui nuts, and tamarinds, with a view to ascertaining to what extent they may be developed into products of commercial value. Samples are being prepared for transmission to eastern laboratories, where exhaustive experiments will be carried out. The kiawe beans will be tested for their alcohol-producing qualities, the kukui nuts for oil. In this connection the following extracts from a report of the agricultural experiment station at Honolulu on the extraction and use of kukui oil should be of interest:

Kukui (*Aleurites triloba* or *A. moluccana*) is distributed throughout Polynesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Society Islands, India, Java, Australia, Ceylon, Bengal, Assam, China, Tahiti, and Hawaii. It has been introduced into the West Indies, Brazil, Florida, and elsewhere. In Hawaii kukui is common to all the islands, being the dominant native tree of the lower mountain zone.

The tree has wide-spreading branches, attains a height of 40 to 60 feet, and is characterized by large, irregularly lobed leaves of a pale-green color and nuts about 2 inches in diameter containing one or two seeds. The Hawaiians string the nuts together on sticks and use them for lighting their houses; the natural candles thus produced gave rise to the name candlenut.

Similar to Linseed Oil—Extraction Methods.

The oil expressed from the kernel of the nut is known in different countries as kukui oil, country walnut oil, kekune oil, artists' oil, Bankul oil, Eboc oil, candlenut oil, Spanish walnut oil, Belgaum oil, etc. It belongs to the class of driers typified by linseed oil, and would be suitable for the manufacture of soft soap and in the preparation of oil varnishes, paints, linoleum, and for other similar purposes. It is used as an article of food as olive oil is used and medicinally as a cathartic. Kukui oil has been used in China for oiling paper, as China wood oil is used.

Kukui oil may be obtained by grinding the kernels and applying pressure, with or without previous roasting of the nuts. The color of the oil is lighter if no heat is used, but the oil is more easily expressed after heating. Apparently the oil can not be obtained by boiling the ground nuts in water, for the oil is thereby completely emulsified and can not be set free by the use of a centrifuge. The oil has been successfully extracted, however, by boiling the nuts in oil. When extracted from the crushed kernel by ether or petroleum the oil is light yellow in color, with a specific gravity of 0.92. When expressed the oil may be dark colored, due to impurities. It dries in thin films on standing several days.

The cake left after the extraction of the oil is rich in nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash. It therefore has a high value as a fertilizer.

Possible Hawaiian Production.

With regard to the total area of kukui in Hawaii we have obtained the estimates of various individuals who are personally familiar with forest conditions in the islands. Their estimates range from 10,000 to 40,000 acres. We may probably assume 15,000 acres as a safe estimate. At 80 trees per acre and 200 pounds of nuts per tree, there would be a yield of 8 tons of nuts per acre; a conservative estimate would be 5 tons of nuts. On 15,000 acres the annual crop of nuts would be 75,000 tons. If we assume that not more than 10,000 acres of this area are readily accessible the yield would be 50,000 tons, which would produce 2,375,000 gallons of oil.

Kukui oil has been shipped from various islands of the Pacific to the United States for the past 75 years. The market price is the same or slightly higher than that of linseed oil and varies with the price of the latter.

[Mention of kukui oil was made in Daily Consular and Trade Reports as far back as 1913, an item appearing in the issue for Feb. 28 of that year.]

COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

In reply to a circular sent out by the Department of State at the request of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, of the Department of Commerce, a number of consular reports dealing with the treatment of commercial travelers in Central American countries have been received from the American consular officers stationed in those countries. These reports are to be published in the **COMMERCE REPORTS** and later reprinted as Tariff Series No. 19B, as a second supplement to Tariff Series No. 19 (**Commercial Travelers**), issued by the bureau in 1908. The first supplement, Tariff Series No. 19A, which treats of commercial travelers in South American countries, was published in 1914.

COSTA RICA.

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San Jose, July 11.]

The customs treatment of samples imported by commercial travelers is provided for in section 133 of the customs tariff of December 23, 1911, which reads as follows:

Samples of value imported by commercial travelers for exhibition and intended to be reexported are dutiable at 0.05 colon per kilo gross (\$1.05 per 100 pounds), subject to compliance with the following provisions:

The traveling salesman or his agent shall enter the samples in exactly the same manner as would be followed in the case of any other merchandise, and shall make a deposit to cover the full amount of duty. The customs official designated to make the customs inspection shall make a very careful examination of the packages. The collector of customs shall give the salesman or his agent a certified copy of the entry (*póliza*), which must accompany the application for a permit to reexport the samples (*pedimento de reembarque*). Samples may be reexported through the customhouses of San Jose, Limon, or Puntarenas, and in case of application made at the central customhouse, San Jose (*aduana central*) the packages will be sealed, marked, and shipped with bill of lading to the collector of customs at port of departure. If on comparing the samples with the entry at the customhouses it is found that there is a discrepancy or that any of the samples are missing, the interested party shall forfeit the entire amount of duty paid. The commercial traveler, however, can dispose of all or part of his samples with permission of the collector of customs concerned and upon the previous payment of the corresponding duties. A period of 90 days is allowed to traveling salesmen to avail themselves of the privilege of reexportation, and if at the end of this period the samples have not been reexported the duties paid will not be refunded. When the commercial traveler applies for the permit to reexport his samples, the amount deposited by him on entry will be refunded, less a charge of 0.05 colon per kilo gross weight (\$1.05 per 100 pounds), provided that the contents of the packages are the same as shown at the time of making entry.

Samples of Jewelry.

The foregoing provisions have been modified by the decree of March 28, 1913, so as not to apply to samples of jewelry or articles manufactured of gold and silver. These samples pay full duty on entry, and there is no provision for a refund of duties when they are shipped out of the country. This modification of the general provisions does not apply to samples of gilded or plated articles, or to common metal goods known as "imitation jewelry." Samples of this sort of merchandise are subject to a refund of duties when exported from the country.

Traveling salesmen availing themselves of this provision for refund of duties should, on their departure from Costa Rica, endeavor to pack their samples in the same trunks and in the same order that they were packed when the entry was made. This precaution will

expedite materially the clearance through customs at the time of reexportation.

The customhouse brokers and forwarding agents at the ports of Limon and Puntarenas, and at the commercial center, San Jose, are perfectly familiar with the procedure regarding the entry of samples, and their charges are moderate.

Municipal License Fees.

The municipality of San Jose collects a tax of 50 colones (\$23.26) from commercial travelers, and the license issued is good for six months. In actual practice the collectors of customs advise the municipality of all travelers arriving with samples, and the municipal collector calls on them for the fee. Travelers operating without samples are also subject to the tax, but as their arrival is not heralded they are seldom called upon by the municipal collector. Probably not more than 10 per cent of the commercial travelers arriving at San Jose pay this tax.

At Port Limon there is a municipal tax of 2 colones (\$0.93) per day, or 8 colones (\$3.72) per week.

The following towns also require travelers' licenses, the rate for each visit being: Puntarenas, \$6; San Ramon, Puriscal, and Grecia, \$2; and Turrialba, \$3.

NOTES FROM VENEZUELA.

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, Sept. 20.]

New Bank for Maracaibo.

A new bank, to be called Banco Comercial, has been established at Maracaibo. Although it will have a capital of only 400,000 bolivars (\$77,200), it will probably be of great local importance, owing to the fact that it will introduce new banking methods and that its operations will tend to relieve the small borrower from the high rates of interest charged by local capitalists, i. e., 2 to 4 per cent per month. The shares, 2,000 in number, are now being sold.

Policy of Banco Comercial.

According to the prospectus, the Banco Comercial will (1) accept deposits of money, corporation stock, precious stones, etc., draw drafts or letters of credit, and remit funds; (2) make loans as small as 50 bolivars (\$9.65) on personal guaranties or property security at a rate not to exceed 1 per cent per month; (3) discount various kinds of commercial paper; and (4) open a savings department, receiving deposits of 10 bolivars (\$1.93) and up and paying interest on amounts of 100 bolivars (\$19.30). Bank notes to the amount of 800,000 bolivars (\$154,400) will be issued, some of which will be of the denomination of 10 bolivars—another innovation. The promoters are Eduardo Leseur and Soto Rivera & Co., of Maracaibo.

Textile Mill and Soap Factory—Lighting Plant.

La Compañía "Hispano-Venezolano," of Barcelona, has now resumed work on the erection of its thread and textile mill at Alta Gracia. This work was reported stopped in supplement 48a to COMMERCE REPORTS for July 2, 1915. The company will also manufacture soap. The machinery is expected in December.

The town of Colon, in the State of Tachira, has installed a municipally owned gasoline lighting plant.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **branch offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the **file number** given.

- Leather goods, furniture, novelties, etc.**, No. 18715.—A firm in New York City informs the Bureau that one of its customers in Argentina desires to receive catalogues, samples, etc., of American leather goods, pocketbooks for waiters, celluloid goods, paper goods, metal advertisements, pencils, knives, umbrellas for wagons, general advertising goods for offices, hardware, soap, furniture, cloth for raincoats, bathing suits and caps, and rubber tubes. Quotations should be made c. l. f. destination.
- Zinc**, No. 18716.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Norway who states that he desires to receive quotations on corrugated zinc suitable for use in the manufacture of washboards.
- Glassware**, No. 18717.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in England reports that a business man desires to receive catalogues and price lists of glassware, especially glass tumblers.
- Rosin, meat products, beer, etc.**, No. 18718.—The Bureau is in receipt of a communication from a commercial organization in this country stating that one of its correspondents in Costa Rica desires to obtain the exclusive representation of American manufacturers or exporters of rosin, lye, or soda, meat and meat products, foodstuffs, matches, blacking (for shoes), oils, beer, and whisky. References are given.
- Chemicals**, No. 18719.—A branch office of the Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business firm in the United States stating that its correspondent in Spain desires to obtain prices of chemical products used in manufacturing incandescent mantles. Correspondence should be in French or Spanish.
- Wearing apparel**, No. 18720.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a business firm in Ceylon desires to secure the exclusive agency for American manufacturers of morning dresses, afternoon dresses, morning blouses, vests, and silk stockings.
- General agency**, No. 18721.—The commercial agent in charge of the branch office of the Bureau in New York reports that a firm in India desires to represent American firms interested in extending their trade in British India. No particular line is mentioned.
- Stoves, wearing apparel, cameras, etc.**, No. 18722.—The commercial agent in charge of the branch office of the Bureau in Chicago transmits a letter received from a business firm in that city stating that its correspondent in India desires to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., of engraving machines, cameras, small cooking stoves, rubber tires for horse carriages, wearing apparel, machines for making quinine capsules, letter copying machines, and printing presses. Correspondence may be in English.
- Soda water machines, perfumery, etc.**, No. 18723.—The commercial agent in charge of the branch office of the Bureau in Chicago has received a letter from a business firm in Wisconsin stating that one of its customers in India desires to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., of a plant for the manufacture of gas for use in preparing soda water, soda water machines, fancy goods, perfumery, carbonic acid gas cylinders, and soda water bottles.
- Corn-grinding machinery**, No. 18724.—An official of a railway in Brazil has informed an American consular officer that he desires to receive catalogues and full information relative to corn-grinding machinery.
- Chemical and physical apparatus**, No. 18725.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., of American chemical and physical apparatus. Correspondence may be in English.
- White metal for making watchcases**, No. 18726.—An American consular officer in Switzerland has been informed by a manufacturer of watches in that country that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers of white-metal sheets for use in making watchcases. Thickness of sheets should be from 0.6 to 1.6 millimeters. References are given. Correspondence may be in English.

Flour, chemicals, drugs, etc., No. 18727.—A firm in Brazil informs an American consular officer that it desires to establish business relations with American manufacturers or exporters of wheat flour, lubricating and cottonseed oil, chemicals and drugs, and essences. Reference is given.

Women's and children's boots and shoes, No. 18728.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a business man in his district desires to establish business connections with American manufacturers or exporters of women's and children's boots and shoes.

Machinery for making nails, No. 18729.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., of machinery and supplies for the manufacture of nails.

Machinery, No. 18730.—One of the commercial agents of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reports that a business man has requested names of manufacturers of match-making machinery and firms which are in position to furnish material for making matches. The man desires to receive quotations, catalogues, and full information relative to this material to be shipped to a firm in South America. He states that this is the only factory of its kind in the particular country, and that it is protected by the Government.

Motion picture film, toilet articles, No. 18731.—A business man in Greece writes the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of motion picture films, with inscriptions in French language; carpets; coal; condensed milk; cotton yarn; household goods and specialties; soaps; and toilet preparations. The man also desires to receive addresses of the various commercial reviews published by commercial museums and chambers of commerce, etc., in the United States.

Cottonseed oil, food products, leather, etc., No. 18732.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of cottonseed oil, preserves, canned fish, drugs, fruits, and shoe leather. Bank references are given.

Iron and steel products, No. 18733.—A business man in Greece informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of steel plates, galvanized iron sheets, iron bars, and steel hoops, glazed kid upper leather, etc. Correspondence may be in English. The man is a Government contractor and manufacturer's agent.

Construction work, machinery, etc., No. 18734.—An American consular officer in Brazil has transmitted a report relative to a proposition for the improvement of port facilities, etc., in that country which will involve the expenditure of a large amount of money. This will offer an opportunity for the sale of dredging machinery, material for bridges, tramways, etc. A copy of the complete report may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 66263.)

Food products, leather, etc., No. 18735.—A firm in Norway informs an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of fresh and dried apples; leather for furniture and shoe manufacturing, similar to the samples which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices (refer to file No. 66712); automobilists' apparel, such as caps, hoods, hats, goggles, gloves, etc.

Glassware, agricultural implements, hardware, etc., No. 18736.—An American consular officer in South Africa transmits the name and address of a firm in his district which desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of glass and glassware, wire netting, dairy and agricultural implements, hardware, and enamelled ware. The firm intends acting simply as agent of manufacturers, but is willing to pay for all orders filled by cash against shipping documents in New York until such time as thorough business relations have been established. Detailed information should be supplied, including prices f. o. b. New York City, and c. i. f. South African ports, if possible.

Potato starch, No. 18737.—A firm in an Eastern Mediterranean country has informed an American consular officer that it desires to receive addresses of American manufacturers and exporters of potato starch.

WAR'S EFFECT ON SCOTTISH HERRING FISHERY.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Dundee, Scotland, Sept. 13.]

Few industries in Scotland have suffered more from the war than the fishing industry, upon which such a large portion of the population depends for its livelihood. In normal times nearly 90,000 persons are engaged in Scotland in occupations directly connected with the fisheries, of which the herring fishery is much the most important branch. Upon the success or failure of the herring catch the prosperity of the fishing population almost wholly depends, and it is this branch of the industry which has been most unfavorably affected by the war.

In normal times over 5,000,000 hundredweight (1 hundredweight=112 pounds) of herrings are landed at the various Scottish ports, valued at from \$7,500,000 to \$10,000,000. A large proportion of this is exported in a cured state to eastern Europe, mainly Germany and Russia. Since the outbreak of the war the great Continental markets have been closed to this trade, and the loss of these markets has been severely felt by the Scottish fishing industry.

An official report just issued shows that in the 12 months, 1913-1914, the aggregate quantity of herrings landed in the United Kingdom was 12,830,000 hundredweights, valued at \$20,911,350; in the year of the war—that is, from July 1, 1914, to August 1, 1915—it was 2,650,000 hundredweights, valued at \$5,216,888, a decrease of 10,180,000 hundredweights, or 79 per cent, and \$15,694,462, or 75 per cent. In Scotland the decrease amounted to 4,719,000 hundredweights and \$7,833,200, or 87 per cent and 82 per cent, respectively.

In the 12 months of war the total quantity of fish landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom amounted to 10,288,000 hundredweights, valued at \$44,912,928, as compared with 24,852,000 hundredweights, valued at \$67,347,493, in the previous 12 months. Of the total decrease in the value of the fish landed in the year of the war the herrings represent 70 per cent and all other fishes only 30 per cent.

AMERICAN WOOLEN RAGS IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, Sept. 14.]

Dewsbury and Batley, in the Leeds consular district, are recognized as the center of the woolen-rag trade of the world, and practically all the woolen rags imported into England come to these towns. The British Government Board of Trade returns show that for the first eight months of 1915 the imports of woolen rags, not pulled, have fallen from 26,969 tons in the like period of 1914 to 15,988 tons, a decrease of about 1,370 tons per month—not much more than 25 per cent of the normal supplies from abroad. This decrease is accounted for by the cessation of imports from Germany (7,084 tons in 1914), Belgium (1,700 tons in 1914), and unclassified countries (3,500 tons in 1914), which indicates that increased imports are coming from the countries with which business is being continued. For the eight months of 1915 the imports from the United States amounted to 5,339 tons, compared with 4,892 tons for the similar period of 1914.

[A list of woolen-rag importers of Dewsbury and Batley will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.]

COMMERCE REPORTS



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PANAMA CANAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Maj. F. C. Boggs, Corps of Engineers, chief of the Washington office of the Panama Canal, makes the following announcement:

A cablegram dated October 12 has been received from the governor of the Panama Canal, advising that continued movements of sliding material make it impossible to predict any approximate date of reopening the canal. The governor states he does not advise sailing via the Panama route until further notice, which will be given as soon as material is removed sufficiently to insure stable conditions.

A second cablegram, dated October 12, has been received from the Governor of the Panama Canal, as follows:

Referring to your cable of the 11th instant, mass of material involved in the break of October 14, 1914, which had been sliding gradually into prism, moved precipitately. This, combined with a similar movement from the break which occurred just opposite, on the west bank, in August, causes present conditions. Length of channel involved 1,300 feet, of which 200 feet has present width of only 25 feet and depth of 3 to 15 feet. For week ending October 9, 209,000 cubic yards of material were dredged, but, as the movement continued, the result has been to maintain only what slides left in first instance. Canal is therefore physically closed temporarily. On the east side bank is upward of 300 feet above canal level and on the west side varies from 300 to 400 feet above. Material in settling and moving creates earth waves, with deep depressions behind these being some five to six hundred feet from the canal prism, with elevations of 60 to 80 feet above water surface. These waves undoubtedly counterbalance weight of broken mass on either side, and when removed may cause another similar movement; hence impossibility of making any prediction as to date of reopening until after waves which now block the channel have been removed and action of remaining material determined. Heavy rains materially affect movement. Whether light-draft ships can pass in advance of 30-foot-draft ships must depend on conditions when reasonably secure channel is attained.

EXPORT TAXES IN PERU.

[Telegram from Consul General William W. Handley, Callao, received Oct. 7, 1915.]

A law was enacted October 6, 1915, levying an export duty on sugar, wool, cotton, and hides shipped from Peru, as previously proposed.

[A law providing for export duties on minerals as well as on the products above mentioned, has been under consideration in Peru, and a detailed report giving the proposed rates will be published in COMMERCE REPORTS in a few days.]

SUCCESSFUL GROWING OF HEMP IN GERMANY.

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, Sept. 14.]

It is said that the results of this year's harvest will assure the future growing of hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) in Germany.

Hemp stood the dryness of the past summer better than most other crops. The production of a large number of hemp fields was splendid, and moor land was especially productive. By careful preparation and fertilization the returns were from 50 to 60 hundredweight of dry hemp stalks, and the planters are so satisfied with the result of their labors that next year they intend to increase considerably the area planted. If the recently appointed committee of the League of German Hemp Industrials succeed in obtaining the necessary seed, the area under hemp will be increased from about 900 acres to over 8,000 acres next year.

The question of rust has not yet been satisfactorily settled. The investigation of the conditions in Hungary leads to the belief that the rusting can be successfully prevented in Germany. In addition to the testing station at Wilhelminenhof, there will probably be established a warm-water rust institute at Havelland, and such institutes will follow at other places.

ARRIVAL OF COAL-TAR DYES.

The Secretary of Commerce announced on October 13 that 50 tons of coal-tar dyes consigned to him for the account of William A. Mitchell, of Lowell, Mass, representing the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, were arriving on the steamship *St. Louis*, due this date.

Several months ago the Secretary consented to act as consignee of two cargoes of dyes from Germany, for which safe passage was assured by permits granted by the British Government upon the express condition that the Secretary of Commerce would be the consignee. Arrangements were made by American manufacturers with the British Government whereby that Government has permitted the exportation to the United States of the dyes coming on the *St. Louis*. It is hoped that this is the first of a series of similar shipments. The Secretary of Commerce has expressed his willingness to act as official consignee of merchandise coming from any foreign country whose authorities may deem such a course necessary.

INSURANCE IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Sept. 13.]

During 1914 Spain expended 73,447,509 pesetas on insurance premiums of all kinds; in 1913 the expenditure was 70,976,756 pesetas. (The Spanish peseta is equivalent to about 19.5 cents United States currency.) More than 24,988,500 pesetas was expended on straight life insurance premiums in 1914, as against 25,061,576 pesetas in 1913. Premiums on tontine policies increased from 7,964,723 pesetas in 1913 to 9,456,387 pesetas in 1914; premiums on fire insurance policies, from 19,623,900 pesetas to 19,851,508 pesetas. Of the premiums on life insurance policies about two-thirds (in value) went to foreign companies doing business in Spain; of the premiums on fire insurance policies, about two-thirds went to Spanish companies.

TO ISSUE ANNUAL EDITION OF LIST OF RADIO STATIONS.

The United States Bureau of Navigation has in the hands of the Public Printer its annual edition of the "List of radio stations of the United States," containing a list of 5,073 stations. The table here given shows the number of land, ship, special land, and amateur stations in this publication, as compared with that of 1914:

Classes of stations.	1914	1915	Increase.
Government and commercial land stations.....	189	224	35
Government and commercial ship stations.....	895	895	0
Special land stations.....	54	118	64
General and restricted amateur stations.....	2,796	3,835	1,040
Total	3,934	5,073	1,139

The appendix to this list contains several articles of interest to radio operators. The books, which will be available by November 1, may be procured from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 15 cents per copy. Copies of the "Radio-communication laws and regulations" may be procured from the Superintendent of Documents at 15 cents per copy.

COOPERATIVE SOCIETY'S PROFITS IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, Sept. 15.]

The Leeds Industrial Cooperative Society reports \$5,166,909 total sales for the half year ended June 30, 1915, or an increase of \$1,225,696 over the like period of 1914 and a record for the society. The share capital stood at \$4,703,277, an increase of \$226,462, and members increased by 1,818 to 49,785. After allowing \$80,973 for interest on capital and \$53,453 for depreciation, the amount available for distribution was \$662,353, which was disposed of as follows: Dividend on members' purchases aggregating \$4,763,866, at 2s. 9d. in the pound (about 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents on each dollar's worth purchased), \$655,030; for educational purposes, \$4,858; balance to next half year, \$2,465.

INCREASED DIVIDEND OF GERMAN SUGAR COMPANY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Sept. 15.]

The Zuckerfabrik Altjauer A. G. in the Breslau consular district will propose a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent dividend at its annual meeting, against 4 per cent in 1914. This is especially noteworthy since the reserve fund of the corporation suffered considerably by the failure of a banking house in Jauer, and this loss had to be restored before profits could be considered.

RUSSIAN EMBARGO ON CALFSKINS.

According to a telegram received from the American Consular General at Moscow October 9, 1915, the exportation of calfskins from Russia has been prohibited.

CROP PROSPECTS IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 18.]

The chief of the agricultural bureau in Barcelona has recently reported on the condition of crops at the end of August of this year in the four Provinces of Catalonia in northeastern Spain. Cereals in general are doing well, though the Lerida wheat crop has suffered some damage from the unusual rainfall that has been general throughout the whole region. Tomatoes did well in those sections where the plants were not attacked by peronospora. There is every indication that the yield of olives in Lerida will be plentiful. In Tarragona abundant crops of beans, rice, and carobs are promised. In none of the Provinces, however, is the state of the vineyards satisfactory, all reporting the presence of mildew or black rot.

It is of interest to note that in July 64,000 metric tons (of 2,204.6 pounds) of wheat were imported into Spain, all of which is stated to have come from Argentina and the United States. More than half of it was unloaded at Barcelona. During the same month Spain imported 24,000 metric tons of corn, 7,000 of which were unloaded at the port of Barcelona, all purchased in Argentina.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Jerez de la Frontera, Sept. 7.]

Vintage of the Jerez de la Frontera District.

Reports received from various portions of the Jerez wine districts indicate an average shortage of 25 per cent as compared with the crop of a year ago. This is attributed, jointly, to the appearance of mildew and unusually high temperatures. Against this must be placed an increase in acreage of bearing vines, from replantings on American stock, estimated at 5 per cent.

Prices show an apparently paradoxical trend. Grapes from which the high-grade wines are made have declined in price 25 per cent as against last year, while those from which the low-grade wines are pressed have increased. There has been a corresponding fall and rise in high-grade and low-grade wines. This is due to the fact that the low grades can be made immediately available, either through distillation into wine spirits or for common table use, whereas the higher grades must be held for several years to develop the bouquet that constitutes their value as a fine wine, so the financial problem of a slow or quick turnover of capital is the basis of this apparently anomalous condition.

[Consular Agent Bartley F. Yost, Almeria, Sept. 11.]

Fewer but Better Grapes in Almeria Province.

The consensus of opinion among the fruit-exporting firms of Almeria Province is that the 1915 grape crop will not exceed 60 per cent of last year's production, which was nearly 1,780,000 barrels of approximately 50 pounds each. The quality of the fruit, however, promises to be unusually good, with better keeping qualities than in normal years, when more fertilizers are used to force its growth, often at the expense of the keeping qualities of the fruit. This year many farmers were financially unable to purchase the quantities of fertilizers desired, and it is claimed by some that this is partly responsible for the crop shortage. Harvesting is about a fortnight late this year.

Thus far the English markets have taken nearly all the fruit exported, although Dutch dealers are showing much activity. The prices realized for both red and white grapes in Liverpool have been very satisfactory, and from present indications an unusually large proportion of the crop will be shipped to England, in which event, it is believed here, shipments to the United States will be considerably curtailed. Contrary to the impression prevailing earlier in the year, there will be no dearth of steamers either for the European or the American trade, but the freight rates have been increased this year to 60 shillings (\$14.60) per ton of 25 barrels. The first shipments of Almeria grapes were started on September 11.

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Sept. 10.]

Raisin Crop of Malaga District.

This season's crop of muscatels is somewhat short of average production and is decidedly backward. In normal years supplies begin to reach Malaga about the middle of September; but nothing excepting low grades, and these in relatively limited quantities, are now expected until the latter part of the month.

The demand for Malaga fruit, particularly loose muscatels, is reported to be much more active than usual. London stocks are lower than they have been for several years past, and because of serious damage, through vine diseases, to the Denia crop and the uncertainty prevailing with respect to exports from Turkey, unexpected orders have been diverted here.

Considerable competition exists among exporters to secure supplies. Prices are commencing to stiffen and will undoubtedly rule high this year.

Jordan and Valencia Almonds.

Jordan almonds usually begin to reach this market at the end of July, and August receipts are generally heavy. This season, however, the crop is fully three weeks late, and at the beginning of September the major portion of the crop was reported to be still in the shell. Valencia almonds usually begin a month later than Jordans; that is to say, about the end of August; but this year, owing to the lateness of the crop, not 10 per cent of the usual September receipts are expected to reach Malaga.

In certain districts it is reported that a very short crop of Jordans will be gathered, due to early frost and high winds, but the abundant yield in other places more than compensates for the loss, and the total crop will be a large one. On the whole, there seems to be an unusually good yield of Valentias.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 7.]

Heat Affects Seville Olives.

Excessive heat during the first week of August (the temperature rising to 120° in the shade) caused some damage to the olive trees in the Seville district. Local optimists believe that the trees had sufficient storage of sap to counteract the effects of the heat, and that as the end of the month gave cooler weather the actual crop may not have been seriously affected. Undoubtedly some damage has resulted, but it is not believed that this is enough to cause alarm. The manzanilla olives are the ones that have suffered most.

THE NEW BRITISH BUDGET.

The London Times for September 23 gives the following summary of the proposed British budget:

The reception given to the budget is, on the whole, favorable. It is generally recognized that Mr. McKenna has endeavored to distribute the new taxes fairly between all classes and that little opposition will be offered in Parliament to his proposals.

The only loud complaint that has so far been raised comes from the manufacturers of picture post cards, who believe that the abolition of the half-penny (1-cent) post will seriously reduce their business. A meeting of the leading men in the trade will be called early next week to consider the question of sending a deputation representing the whole of the trades interested to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Meetings of people engaged in other industries and businesses affected by the budget have also been arranged, but with the object of considering how the taxes shall be passed to the consumer rather than of organizing criticism or opposition.

Operation of New Income Tax.

No one is disposed to quarrel with the 40 per cent addition to the income tax. The reduction of the abatement level from £160 to £120 (from \$780 to \$585) has caused a little surprise, however, not so much over the actual lowering of the abatement as because of the absence of any new graduation of the charges.

It is interesting to compare the position of a man earning £300 (\$1,460) a year under the new taxation with his position before the war. For the purposes of the illustration it may be assumed that he has two children under 16 years of age, and that he pays in insurance premiums £20 (\$97) a year. Under the old system he paid a tax of 9d. in the pound on £80 a year (18 cents on each \$4.8665 of a total of \$390). When he comes to pay the full taxation now imposed he must find 2s. 1d. (50 cents) in the pound on £120 (\$585). The increase is from £3 to £12 10s. (from \$14.60 to \$60.85).

The rise is still more marked in the case of the man with £250 (\$1,215) a year. Assuming that he, too, has two children and his insurance premiums absorb £10 (\$48.65) a year, his income tax is raised from £1 10s. (\$7.30) to £8 3s. 8d. (\$40.55). In addition, he is faced with a rise in the breakfast table expenses.

On a moderate calculation the middle-class father of a family has to grapple with a 20 per cent depreciation of his income. It should be added that the introduction of the system of payment of income tax by installments is warmly welcomed.

Comparative Table of Income-Tax Rates.

The following table shows how the new income-tax proposals affect various incomes:

Incomes wholly earned.	Old tax for 1915-16.	New tax for 1915-16.	Proposed tax for 1916-17.	Incomes wholly earned.	Old tax for 1915-16.	New tax for 1915-16.	Proposed tax for 1916-17.
\$638.....		\$4. 80	\$5. 60	\$2, 675.....	\$156. 95	\$197. 10	\$228. 95
\$680.....		8. 75	10. 20	\$2, 920.....	175. 20	219. 00	255. 50
\$730.....		13. 15	15. 30	\$3, 160.....	211. 80	263. 75	296. 35
\$780.....		17. 50	20. 45	\$3, 400.....	229. 95	175. 95	321. 90
\$875.....	\$7. 30	26. 30	30. 65	\$3, 890.....	292. 00	350. 40	408. 80
\$975.....	14. 60	35. 05	40. 90	\$4, 380.....	328. 50	394. 20	459. 90
\$1, 215.....	32. 85	56. 95	66. 45	\$4, 870.....	365. 00	434. 00	511. 00
\$1, 460.....	51. 10	18. 85	92. 00	\$7, 300.....	638. 75	766. 50	894. 20
\$1, 700.....	69. 35	100. 75	117. 55	\$9, 735.....	973. 30	1, 167. 95	1, 362. 60
\$1, 945.....	87. 60	122. 65	143. 10	\$12, 170.....	1, 419. 40	1, 703. 30	1, 987. 15
\$2, 190.....	109. 50	153. 30	178. 85	\$14, 600.....	1, 824. 95	2, 189. 95	2, 554. 90
\$2, 435.....	127. 75	175. 20	204. 40				

These are the figures for incomes wholly earned. Slightly higher rates apply to incomes half earned and half unearned, and still higher rates to those incomes that are wholly unearned.

Proposed Rates on Large Incomes.

The following table^a shows the effect of the new proposals on incomes over £3,000 (\$14,600), the amounts given being the total of the income tax and the supertax combined:

Income.	Old tax for 1915-16.	New tax for 1915-16.	Proposed tax for 1916-17.	Income.	Old tax for 1915-16.	New tax for 1915-16.	Proposed tax for 1915-16.
\$14,605.....	\$1,927	\$2,292	\$2,657	\$194,700.....	\$47,428	\$58,540	\$63,406
\$24,300.....	3,792	4,400	4,008	\$243,300.....	60,000	74,356	80,439
\$48,700.....	9,713	11,092	12,308	\$365,000.....	91,429	113,896	123,021
\$97,300.....	22,285	26,908	29,341	\$486,700.....	122,859	153,437	165,603
\$146,000.....	34,856	42,724	46,347				

No account is taken in the foregoing tables of allowances in respect of life insurance premiums and children, which, in many cases, would substantially reduce the tax payable and the virtual rate.

The Breakfast Table.

The immediate effect of the increased taxes on "the breakfast table" is shown by the following list of prices of typical commodities as they stood before the budget and as they stand now:

Commodities.	Old price.	New price.
	<i>Per pound.</i>	<i>Per pound.</i>
Tea, Ceylon.....	\$0.49	\$0.57
Coffee, fine blends.....	.45	.47
Cocoa, Bournville.....	.59	.60
Chicory, best.....	.20	.22
Dates.....	.06	.07
Sugar:		
Granulated.....	.07	.08
Loaf.....	.08	.12

It is evident from these prices, which were quoted at one of the leading provision stores in London yesterday, that the whole of the additional charges on food will, for the present at any rate, be passed on by the retailer to the consumer. Restaurant prices will also be raised.

The rise in food prices will not be confined to the articles directly subject to the new duties. The cost of sugar, for example, affects the cost of jam, sweets, biscuits, and other foodstuffs. It is anticipated that the price of jam will be raised by halfpenny [1 cent] per pound and the price of sweets by a halfpenny for 4 ounces. Condensed milk will probably also be dearer. Tate & Sons, the well-known refiners, made the following quotations yesterday: No. 1 cubes, 50s. 6d. per hundredweight [\$12.29 per 112 pounds], as against 31s. [\$7.54] on Tuesday; H. T. S. cubes, 50s [\$12.17] per hundredweight, as against 30s. 6d. [\$7.42] on Tuesday; standard granulated, 33s. and 32s. 3d. [\$8.03 and \$7.85], as against 28s. and 27s. 6d. [\$6.81 and \$6.69] on Tuesday.

New Tobacco Prices—Postal Changes.

Further taxes on tobacco were fully expected, and, while the 50 per cent advance may unsettle the trade for a while, it is believed that the disturbance will be temporary and that business will soon right itself. At a meeting of the Wholesale Tobacconists' Protection Association (Ltd.), held in London last night, the following list of suggested prices for retail tobacconists, to come into operation immediately, was agreed upon [values converted to American currency]: Tobacco and snuff—Up to 9 cents per ounce, 3 cents advance; over 9 cents per ounce, 4 cents advance; imported tobaccos and tobacco manufactured in bond, 5 cents advance. Cigarettes—Two-cent packets advanced to 3 cents or two for 5 cents; 4-cent packets, to 5 cents; 5-cent packets, to 7 cents; 6-cent

^a The figures presented in this and in the preceding table are not exact equivalents of those given by the Times, but have been rounded off after converting the Times' figures to American currency at the rate of \$4.8665 to the pound sterling.

packets, to 8 cents; 8-cent packets, to 10 cents; 9-cent packets, to 12 cents; and 18-cent packets, to 24 cents; other brands, 25 o 33 per cent increase. Cigars—Advances varying from 60 cents to \$1.85 per 100, according to quality.

While some tobacconists yesterday were selling their present stocks at the old prices, there was a general tendency to ask customers to pay the extra tax at once. This, it is explained, was done to prevent a rush on their supplies.

It was stated at the General Post Office yesterday that the new post-office rates will probably not become operative until November 1, the estimates being based on that date. Printers foresee a loss of work by the abolition of half-penny postage, and, as stated, manufacturers of post cards are greatly concerned about the situation. Sir Adolph Tuck, managing director of Ralphael Tuck & Sons, said that early in the war many printers spent large sums of money in laying down new machinery for printing colored post cards of a kind previously obtained from the Continent, and that the abolition of half-penny postage would mean a heavy loss to these firms.

Patent Medicines and Gasoline—Import Duties.

So far the doubling of the duty on patent medicines has not produced an increase of prices; but we are informed by the secretary of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association that the manufacturers concerned will meet this week to discuss the matter, and that prices will inevitably be raised.

The effect of the budget on motor spirit (gasoline) has been quite unexpected. The additional tax is 3d. (6 cents) per gallon, but to the surprise of consumers the price of spirit has been advanced not 3d. but 5d. per gallon.

The proposed duty on imported motor cars, while welcomed by British manufacturers, is regarded with anxiety by agents for cars of American and French makes. One point upon which great uncertainty prevailed in the motor trade was as to whether imported tires were subject to the duty. We are informed that, in a telegram to the Goodrich Tire Co., the Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated that tires are included in the term "motor cars and parts."

The new duty on cinema films is cordially approved by British film producers. Experts in the cinema-film business are puzzled to know how the revenue authorities will interpret "ad valorem." The value of a film, one expert pointed out, does not lie in the negative itself—most films are imported as negatives—but in the money the owners can get for the copies made here from that negative. Will the revenue authorities accept the intrinsic value—say 1½d. (3 cents) per foot—or the real value? "Some negatives of 3,000 feet," the expert said, "might be reasonably valued at £200 (\$975). On the other hand, there is the film of 'The Eternal City,' produced by an American company. At least £20,000 (\$97,500) will be made out of the hire of this negative. As a valuer I should say that the value of that negative is £10,000 (\$48,665), and therefore the duty on it should be £3,333 (\$16,220)."

LIMITED MARKET FOR YEAST CAKES.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

Several American housewives living in Central America mentioned the difficulty of getting good yeast for baking purposes and expressed the opinion that if yeast cakes were put up in air-tight tins and prepared to keep a considerable length of time there should be a fairly good demand for them. Undoubtedly there would be a market of some extent among the Americans, English, French, and Germans resident there, but it is doubtful if this element is sufficiently numerous to make the venture a paying one. In few of the native houses is yeast-risen bread baked. The crusty rolls to go with the early morning coffee and fruit usually come from the panaderia (bakery). Luncheon is, as a rule, served with the tasty corn tortillas, and this latter form of bread is preferred by most natives for the evening meal also. Yeast is not used in its preparation.

CHINESE CATTLE FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Aug. 18; see also COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 2.]

After a break in the trade of nearly five years, the shipment of live cattle from Hongkong to the Philippines has again been undertaken as a result of the action of the Philippine authorities in letting down the bars against such traffic raised for the purpose of keeping the cattle diseases now prevalent in south Asia out of the islands. The renewal of the import of cattle from Hongkong is the revamping of an old and at one time very important trade. The declared exports of cattle from Hongkong to the Philippines in 1910 were valued at \$510,626, while as a result of restrictions on the trade growing out of the animal quarantine the trade fell to a value of \$209,097 in 1911 and became inconsequential in subsequent years.

From time to time, as a result of pressure from consumers in the Philippines against high prices of meat, due to the shortage of native animals in the islands and the high prices of frozen meats from Australia, efforts have been made to resume the shipment of South China cattle by arranging for immunizing the animals in Hongkong. There have also been attempts to import live stock from Hongkong into the Philippines by establishing stations to which the cattle could be taken for slaughter. The chief obstacle to trading under such restrictions was the increased cost of the animals. Under the regulations now effective cattle may be imported from Hongkong to Pandacan, near Manila, where they are to be slaughtered. It is believed that with proper care dealers will experience no difficulty in carrying on the trade for a time at least.

In anticipation of the present course of things arrangements were made about a month ago for the exportation of frozen meat from Hongkong to the Philippines, the arrangement at that time contemplating the shipment of about 500 carcasses per month. The arrangement is being carried out successfully and the volume of shipments is likely to be increased materially in the immediate future.

CABLE CONNECTION FOR HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Aug. 2.]

Recently this office took up with the Government authorities the question of a cable connection, and was informed that only a short time ago they had approached the Central and South American Telegraph Co. with that end in view, but apparently that company did not consider the proposition favorably. The nearest cable station to the Pacific side of Honduras is that at Libertad, Salvador.

The Honduras Government has expressed a desire to have a direct cable connection and would be interested in any proposition to that end. More than 3,000 cablegrams are sent annually, at an average annual cost of 60,000 pesos (\$20,000 at present rate of exchange). The rate to the United States is 2.35 pesos (\$0.78) per word. A copy (in Spanish) of the cable rates to the various countries is transmitted with this report [and will be loaned by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 65999].

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA.

In discussing the plans of the United States Government for the promotion of closer commercial relations with Latin American countries, both in regard to tariff arrangements and the improvement of transportation facilities, the Buenos Aires newspaper *La Prensa* comments as follows in its issue of August 31, 1915:

This Government initiative is necessitated by the fact that private initiative, always deliberate, would not accomplish the purpose with the dispatch and broadness that the circumstances warrant and demand, the United States being at present the only country that is in a condition to replace the nations at war which have suspended or considerably restricted their commercial relations.

This propitious situation for the North Americans will be continued, even after the restoration of peace, since the warring nations will not be able to resume their full industrial and commercial activity until they have recuperated from the serious losses and shocks to their financial and economic forces.

The foresight with which the American Government regards its exceptional opportunity promises well for the success of its plans.

But Government initiative is not enough, since its value is limited to giving scope and facilities to commercial relations, and it can not by itself promote transactions which depend essentially on the commercial methods that the interested parties adopt to win a market already bound by strong ties to competing nations who have won their position without the aid of treaties or fiscal incentives but merely by their force, diligence, and skill.

These countries, which have won such advantageous positions in our market, have gained them by a system of sale, manufacture, and exportation, by easy terms and a regard for the conditions and tastes of the consumers, and by reasonable prices. They also at the same time encouraged reciprocal commercial relations by increasing their consumption of our products.

For the expansion and strengthening of these relations no special treaties have been necessary, and they have been established in spite of the obstacles of our customs barriers.

These convincing examples indicate that while government action and initiative may favor commercial relations, they are not indispensable, and may even prove futile if they are not seconded by the individual efforts of those who are called upon to bring about their realization and to take their places in the lists of international competition.

If the plans and projects of the American Government are to have definite results, merchants and manufacturers, for whose aid they are intended, must assist with their force and intelligence, building up methods that would facilitate business and create a demand for their merchandise.

Without this aid the Government efforts will be in vain and will be defeated by the opposition or slowness of the agents, who, owing to lack of skill or liberality, might be unable to meet the competition of their more diligent and venturesome rivals.

The causes which serve to restrict our commercial development with the United States are to be found to a large extent in this lack of practical sense to operate in a competitive market, dominated by rivals who dispute it on the basis of large sales at moderate prices and on liberal terms, which induce the merchants to buy their goods without compulsion of immediate payment.

If the North Americans adopt the methods which have given such excellent results, the official plan of the American Government will have positive and permanent benefits, and the position they may occupy by reason of the unfortunate circumstances of their competitors will be firm, based on the preference of the market. Otherwise it will be only an ephemeral and spasmodic effort, which will fall to pieces as soon as the relations of the commercial world resume their normal course.

American needles should meet with a ready sale in Central America, reports Special Agent Garrard Harris. The needles now being offered there are said to be unsatisfactory, defective in the eye, and made of poor metal that will not hold a point.

LEATHER-TRADE CONDITIONS IN GERMANY.

[Consul General H. W. Harris, Frankfort-on-the-Main, Sept. 11.]

A recent issue of the Frankfurter Zeitung furnishes a brief review of the leather trade in Germany that may have some interest as bearing upon an industry on which extraordinary demands have been made by the war. Much activity in this trade is sure to follow the making of peace, and the American leather industry—of which Frankfort is an important center—will doubtless have a share in replenishing depleted stocks not only in Germany but in other countries now at war. No other branch of American trade in this locality is better organized than leather, and those manufacturers who would enter this field will do well to reckon on the need of adequate organization, with ample warehouse facilities, etc. The fact that Frankfort is a leather center and that several of the important shoe factories are in this part of Germany make the city, with its railway connections in all directions, a desirable one from which to market this product.

The review referred to says, among other things, that through various actions taken by the Government [for an account of the Government-fixed maximum prices for hides, see *COMMERCE REPORTS* dated Jan. 29, 1915] the conditions of the leather industry in Germany have changed materially of late. While during the first months of the war there was activity in all branches of the industry and in some cases excessive profits were realized, there prevails at present a somewhat restricted activity, and in most cases but little can be said of large profits. It has also now become certain that an actual scarcity of leather, as to which some fears prevailed, has not arisen, nor would such scarcity seem probable. Though not everyone is able to get just that sort of leather he prefers for special purposes, it can not be said there is scarcity of leather as a whole, nor is there danger that the needs of the army will not be met or the civil population not sufficiently provided for. The question of the readjustment of prices for leather must await the return of normal conditions.

SCARCITY OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN SILESIA.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Germany, Sept. 7, 1915.]

Since the beginning of the year, the Breslau branch of the Merchants' Employment Agency has reported 932 vacancies for women in commercial positions. To fill these positions there were only 655 applicants or 277 less than required. Out of this number 400 secured satisfactory employment. Thus 61.07 per cent of the applicants were accepted and 42.92 per cent of the positions were filled. The information bureau of the agency serves war widows and orphans free of charge, and often assists them in the preparation for these positions. In the teaching profession there are always vacancies for well-qualified young ladies, and the demand far exceeds the supply.

This report of the Merchants' Employment Agency is fully substantiated by the numerous "Help wanted" advertisements in the daily papers of Breslau.

JAPAN'S SUBSIDIES TO NORTH AMERICAN LINES.

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, Japan, Aug. 24; supplementing dispatches in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 5, 1915.]

Inquiries made by this office in official quarters in Japan as to what share of the shipping subsidy allowed for the North American lines, each of the three companies—the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha—will receive, have been fruitless of results. Examination of the regulations under which subsidies are granted, however, makes it possible to approximate the sum each company will get.

According to these regulations, 50 sen (\$0.249) is to be granted to a ship, not more than 5 years old, per gross ton for every 1,000 miles at 12 knots per hour, plus a 10 per cent increase for each knot per hour faster than 12, plus a 25 per cent increase for vessels which have been built according to plans approved by the Government. Five per cent is to be deducted for each year of the ship's age in excess of 5.

The Government will grant a subsidy to the Toyo Kisen Kaisha for three vessels, namely the *Tenyo Maru*, the *Chiyo Maru*, and the *Shinyo Maru*, of about 13,000 gross tons each; to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha for four vessels, namely, the *Chicago Maru*, the *Panama Maru*, the *Canada Maru*, each of 6,000 tons, and the *Hawaii Maru* of 7,000 tons; to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for two vessels, the *Shidzuoka Maru* and the *Yokohama Maru*, each of 6,000 tons.

Amounts to Be Received in Subsidies Estimated.

Under the regulations, then, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha will receive in 1916 for the ships mentioned, approximately 1,635,000 yen (\$815,240), the Osaka Shosen Kaisha 1,004,000 yen (\$499,992), and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha the balance (the total subsidy for North America being 2,949,012 yen—\$1,468,608—for the year 1916) or 310,012 yen (\$154,386).

Examination of the papers of the Pacific Mail steamship *Korea* shows a monthly salary expenditure of about \$5,000, while the average monthly expenditure for salaries on a Toyo Kisen Kaisha steamer does not exceed \$3,000. If anything this is too high an estimate. The *Korea* may be taken as an average vessel, since the Pacific Mail fleet consisted of two vessels of the size of the *Korea*, two larger ships, and only one smaller one. Taking into account the subsidy which the Toyo Kisen Kaisha receives, it costs this company about \$227,860 less per year to run one ship of its fleet of four than it did the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. to run one of its five ships.

Monthly Salaries to Officers and Crew of Pacific Mail Liner.

The table of monthly salaries to officers and crew of the *Korea* is:

Positions.	Monthly pay.	Positions.	Monthly pay.	Positions.	Monthly pay.
Captain	\$275.00	Ref. engineer	\$70.00	Saloon watchman	\$25.00
First officer	135.00	Deck engineer	60.00	Steerage watchman	25.00
Second officer	110.00	Electrician	70.00	Two stewardesses, at	
Third officer	90.00	Three water tenders, at		\$25.....	50.00
Fourth officer	75.00	\$55	165.00	Three wireless operators,	
Fifth officer	70.00	Two oilers, at \$45	90.00	at \$0.25 .....	.75
Carpenter	50.00	Purser	150.00		
Four quartermasters, at		Clerk	90.00	Total for white	
\$45	180.00	Surgeon	75.00	employees	3,265.75
Chief engineer	200.00	Steward	125.00	Musician (Filipino)	15.00
First assistant engineer	135.00	Second steward	75.00	Seven musicians, at	
Second assistant engineer		Steerage steward	50.00	\$12.50	87.50
Third assistant engineer	110.00	Storekeeper	60.00		
Six junior engineers, at		Baggage clerk	45.00	Total, exclusive of	
\$70	420.00	Butcher	65.00	Asiatic crew	3,368.25
		Deck watchman	35.00		

Wages of Asiatic Crew in Hongkong Currency.

The difference in the salaries paid on the Toyo Kisen Kaisha steamships and those on the Pacific Mail Co. vessels lies in the above, as the salaries paid to Japanese and Chinese members of the crew would not differ to any extent. The wages to the Asiatic crew, in Hongkong currency, amount to \$4,092, of which the principal items are:

Positions.	Month-ly pay.	Positions.	Month-ly pay.	Positions	Month-ly pay.
Carpenter's mate	\$25. 00	Two saloon cooks, at \$35	\$70. 00	Two mess boys, at \$15..	\$30. 00
No. 1 boatswain	30. 00	Three saloon cooks, at		Four mess boys, at \$12..	48. 00
No. 2 boatswain	25. 00	\$15	45. 00	Six "learn" boys, at	
Seaman	20. 00	Baker	45. 00	\$0.25	1.50
33 seamen, at \$15	495. 00	Two bakers, at \$15..	30. 00	Five bath boys, at \$15..	75. 00
Sailmaker	12. 00	Baker	25. 00	Two deck boys, at \$15..	30. 00
Two mess boys, at \$0.25..	.50	Butcher	15. 00	Steerage cook	35. 00
Mess boy	18. 00	Porter	20. 00	Two steerage cooks, at	
18 oilers, at \$18.	324. 00	Do	25. 00	\$15.	30. 00
Fireman	23. 00	Pantryman	20. 00	Five steerage waiters,	
Do	20. 00	Five pantrymen, at \$15.	75. 00	at \$15	75. 00
Do	18. 00	Scullery man	15. 00	Japanese steerage cook..	25. 00
29 firemen, at \$16	624. 00	Silver man	15. 00	Two Japanese steerage	
45 coal passers, at \$14..	630. 00	Printer	30. 00	cooks, at \$15	30. 00
Storekeeper	18. 00	Interpreter	40. 00	Check clerk	30. 00
Two mess boys, at \$12..	24. 00	Barkeeper	30. 00	Chinese instructor	75. 00
Two mess boys, at \$0.25..	.50	No 1 cabin waiter	25. 00	Two Chinese instruc-	
Saloon cook	45. 00	38 cabin waiters, at \$15.	570. 00	tors, at \$55	110. 00

The total amount represented in this table is equivalent, at \$0.396, to \$1,620 in United States gold. This rate of \$0.396 is especially low just now because of the war, the usual rate being about \$0.470. The grand total at the lower rate amounts to \$4,988, but at the usual rate this total would exceed \$5,000 as the monthly salary expense of the average Pacific Mail Steamship Co. liner.

[Figures given in this consular report, as representing the amount of subsidy to be received by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, may be modified through an increased number of ships in the trans-Pacific service of those companies, mentioned in later reports from San Francisco and Honolulu.]

WOMEN TRAM CONDUCTORS AND MAIL CARRIERS.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham. England, Sept. 14.]

The people of Nottingham are becoming quite accustomed to seeing women in various branches of the public service performing duties which were hitherto undertaken by men, and it occasioned little surprise when women tram conductors made their appearance a few days ago. At first only two or three were engaged to make the experiment, but they gave such universal satisfaction that the Tramways Committee, on September 10, definitely concluded to engage 15 or 20 more women as tram conductors. If the women perform their duties efficiently, they will be permanently employed on the same salary basis as the men. They will be furnished with suitable coat and skirt uniforms, and the authorities will endeavor to so arrange the shifts that the hours of work will not be too exacting.

Three women are in the Nottingham postal service, delivering letters in areas which do not involve a great amount of walking, and the general satisfaction they have given thus far will doubtless result in others being employed.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **branch offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the **file number** given.

Wrapping paper, No. 18738.—An American consular officer in Chile transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who desires to purchase wrapping paper, similar to the samples which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 66757.) The consular officer also transmits names and addresses of other paper dealers in his district.

Machinery, No. 18739.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase a simple device for placing and fastening metal bands about wooden boxes. Sizes of boxes: 19½ by 13½ by 8 inches, 18 by 17 by 10 inches, 19½ by 13½ by 9½ inches. Correspondence may be in English.

Printers' supplies, No. 18740.—A firm in Argentina writes an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of printers' supplies, such as machinery, type, inks, paper, office supplies, fancy paper, etc. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

Photographic supplies, No. 18741.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a business man in his district wishes to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of cameras, photographic supplies, high-grade chemicals, glass and scientific instruments for laboratory use in chemistry, physics, and general experimental work. Correspondence should be in Italian or French. Catalogues, with full information, should be sent at once.

Machinery, No. 18742.—A Portuguese steamship company informs an American consular officer that it wishes to buy the latest and best materials of marine engineering machinery used chiefly for repairing ships; also heavy and light lathes, planers, screw cutters, and drilling machinery. The company desires to pay part cash with the order and balance after three months. Catalogues, price lists, and full information should be sent at once. Correspondence may be in English. Bank reference is given.

Leather, No. 18743.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a firm of bookmakers in his district desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of bookbinding leather. At present prices are desired on 30 dozen red, blue, and black skivers.

Bathtubs, No. 18744.—A firm in Italy informs an American consular officer that it wishes to receive offers for 100 porcelain or majolica bathtubs, 200 wash basins, 100 fixtures for water-closets, for installing in first and second class cabins of ships; also bids for brass beds and fixtures for such cabins. All of this material must be of the finest quality. The firm also desires to receive offers for berths in the ordinary cabins. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Genoa. Correspondence is preferred in the Italian language but may be in English.

Fruits, No. 18745.—An American consular officer in Brazil transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who desires to be placed in communication with exporters of American fresh fruits, such as apples, pears, plums, grapes, and peaches. It is stated that the fruits may be shipped to a local storage warehouse; that the buyer would either pay cash against documents, or pay as the fruit is withdrawn from the warehouse, the latter acting as representative of American shippers. The man is also prepared to quote prices on Brazilian jellies and preserves and tropical fruits. He will send samples if desired.

Fancy leather goods, No. 18746.—The Bureau has received a letter from a business man in England who desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of fancy leather goods.

Prism-glass windows, No. 18747.—A letter has been received by the Bureau from a man in Chile who desires to communicate with American manufacturers of prism-glass windows.

Silk thread and yarn, No. 18748.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a business man desires to represent an American manufacturer of silk thread and yarn.

Fittings for postal station, No. 18749.—An American consular officer in Canada informs the Bureau that the Department of Public Works at Ottawa has advertised for tenders to be received until October 20, 1915, for fittings for Postal Station "C," Vancouver, B. C. Plans and specifications may be seen on application to the Postmaster, Vancouver; Mr. W. Henderson, resident architect, Victoria, B. C.; and at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Vegetable ivory nuts, No. 18750.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a business man in his district desires to establish business relations with American exporters of vegetable ivory nuts. Correspondence may be in English.

General representation, No. 18751.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a business man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters desiring to extend their trade in that country. No particular line is specified. References are given. Correspondence may be in English, but Portuguese is preferred.

Gasoline launch, No. 18752.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in the Azores that a business firm in his district desires to purchase a sea-going gasoline launch. Correspondence may be in English.

Chemicals and drugs, No. 18753.—A druggist in Portugal has informed an American consular officer in that country that he desires to receive catalogues and price lists of cacodylate of soda, pharmaceutical specialties, drugs, etc. He is willing to pay cash against documents. Correspondence may be in French or Portuguese. References are given.

Printing presses, No. 18754.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in the Azores that a printing firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and prices of small hand and foot power printing presses. Correspondence may be in English.

Groceries and salted meats, No. 18755.—An American consular officer in the Canary Islands reports the desire of a commission house in his district to purchase and to assume the agency for American manufacturers or exporters of groceries and salted meats. Correspondence should be in Spanish. A complete description of goods, with prices, etc., should be sent at once.

Gas heaters and cookers, No. 18756.—An American consular officer in France has informed the Bureau that a business man in his district desires to receive catalogues and export price lists of gas heaters and cook stoves.

Raw cotton, cotton yarn, safety pins, hosiery, etc., No. 18757.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a business man in that country desires to represent, as a commission agent, American exporters of raw cotton and manufacturers of cotton yarn, snap buttons, safety pins, hair pins, and hosiery. References are given. Correspondence may be in English.

Enamel ware, sanitary supplies, hardware, etc., No. 18758.—A business man in New Zealand has informed an American consular officer that he desires to represent, on an indent basis, American manufacturers or exporters of enamel ware; sanitary supplies; stationery; builders' hardware; and paper goods, such as postal cards, labels, etc. He desires to receive, as soon as possible, catalogues, price lists, etc., and samples, if possible.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

STEAM SOUNDING MACHINES FOR COAST SURVEY CRAFT.

Steam engines for operating the Cosmos sounding machine have been installed by C. G. Quillian on the steamer *McArthur* and launch *Delta*, of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, and are reported a decided success.

The device consists of the ordinary type of Cosmos machine, equipped with a three-cylinder, self-contained, Ingersoll-Rand steam engine of the brotherhood type, mounted on same base. Rope-drive pulleys are attached to the shaft of the wire drum and to the engine shaft. A friction brake acts against the inner rim of the wire drum and a heavy idler wheel on a swinging arm gives necessary tension in the rope drive.

On the ship the machine is mounted abreast the bridge on the port side, and the sounding wire leads from the drum through a sheave on the weighted end of a long arm, then through a registering sheave on the bridge, thence to a fair-lead on pipe davit and to water. The tension of the lead on the arm holds the arm out of vertical. The arm swings to a vertical position when the lead strikes bottom and takes up slack in the wire until the brake is applied.

The machine and registering sheave are advantageously located, as the position adopted on the *McArthur* enables the officer on the bridge to verify the depth on register and check the verticality of the wire. Using a 12-pound lead, soundings of 150 fathoms were obtained in two minutes, and the engine reels in 120 fathoms per minute. The ship goes ahead with 100 fathoms of wire out, except when turning with a port helm. On the *Delta* the machine is mounted on the stern and the wire leads over a registering sheave to the water. The machine has been used in depths up to 130 fathoms, and the lead was up long before the stop for the next sounding.

The machines are serving the purpose intended—viz, to reduce the number of men required and make the force available for another field party. The machine has also increased the speed of sounding with the *Delta*.

GERMANY'S FORTY-FIFTH CREMATORY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Sept. 7.]

On Sunday, August 29, the new municipal crematory at Hirschberg was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. This is the first crematory in this consular district and the forty-fifth in all Germany. It is built upon an elevation of the community cemetery on the Cavalier Mountains. The plans were made by City Architect Kühnemann, and the total cost was 100,000 marks (\$23,800). The main hall of the chapel has a seating capacity for 300 persons.

RECEIPTS OF SPANISH POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Sept. 14.]

According to statistics published to-day, the receipts of the Spanish Post Office Department for 1914 totaled 36,633,522 pesetas—a decline from the figures of the preceding year of 201,634 pesetas. (The peseta is equivalent to about 19.5 cents United States currency.) Sales of postage stamps amounted to 34,257,209 pesetas, special postage on printed matter, to 354,338 pesetas, and the money-order department produced 999,508 pesetas.

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SUCCESS OF AUSTRALIA'S INTERNAL LOAN.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Sept. 10.]

The first installment of Australia's recently authorized £20,000,000 (\$97,330,000) internal loan has met with extraordinary success. Although but £5,000,000 (\$24,332,500) was called for, the returns received by the Commonwealth Bank up to September 1 aggregated £12,932,410 (\$62,935,575). Inquiries at the bank elicited the information that up to this present date all the returns are not in from some of the more distant points of Australia, but that the indications are that the total subscriptions will amount to well over £13,000,000 (\$63,264,500).

The largest individual subscription was that of the Mutual Life & Citizens' Assurance Co. for £1,000,000 (\$4,866,500). Various banks subscribed a total of £1,785,000 (\$8,686,700). It is reported that the banks, on the understanding that the amount was to be placed in four installments, have subscribed only one-fourth of what they were prepared to take of the total amount to be issued. This may be true in some cases, but most of the banks state that present subscriptions were for the amount they were prepared to take now, and they have not committed themselves as to what they can do in regard to further issues.

In view of the success of this first call for subscriptions, there should be no difficulty in placing the remaining £7,000,000 (\$34,065,500) whenever the Government chooses to call for it.

FLOW OF GOLD INTO SWITZERLAND.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, American Embassy, Paris, Sept. 11.]

The war has brought about important modifications in the importation and exportation of gold in Switzerland. Whereas in 1913 Switzerland exported 24,550,000 francs (\$4,738,150 United States currency) of gold and imported 5,195,000 francs, the trade in gold during 1914 indicated exports amounting to 3,600,000 francs and imports amounting to 16,450,000 francs. The imports during the last four months of 1914 included 12,500,000 francs of gold from Germany and 1,500,000 of gold from England.

CHINESE VISITORS IMPRESSED.

[Extract from Peking Daily News of Aug. 31, by Commercial Attaché Julian H. Arnold, Peking.]

The first of the Chinese Commercial Commissioners to the United States to reach Shanghai on their return trip came in on the *Aki Maru*, and with them came glowing reports of their experiences. The members of the commission, says the China Press, are enthusiastic over their welcome by the Americans and over what they saw and learned. Mr. Yui spoke for the commission, saying:

The one big impression we got throughout our remarkable trip was the sincere friendship of the United States for China. The treatment we received was not surface courtesy. It represented genuine feeling from the heart. The American people are our friends. As to the things we did I can say we had the most glorious time of our lives. To those of the commissioners who had never before been in the United States—10 of the 17—it was the most wonderful experience of their lives, one they can never forget.

Bank and Steamship Line.

The concrete results of the trip it is too early to predict. Both the Sino-American bank and the Shanghai-San Francisco steamship line are still in the indefinite state.

We had conferences with American capitalists on both subjects, but nothing definite has yet been agreed on. The thing we must look to first is the steamship line. The withdrawal of the Pacific Mail will hasten our plans, but I don't think we can do anything definite for a few months.

But both the bank and the steamship service must eventually come. Without those two we can not have a thriving trade between China and the United States. And the one thing we learned on our trip was the enormous possibility of this trade and the small extent to which it has been developed so far.

BALANCE SHEET OF BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Sept. 10.]

The balance sheet of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, recently made public, shows that on June 30 last the bank's assets totaled \$81,371,400, consisting of: Coin, bullion, and cash balances, \$21,503,450; Australian Commonwealth notes, \$2,764,400; money at short call in London, \$13,820,850; British, colonial, and Government securities, \$26,665,900; fixed deposits of other banks, \$4,409,100; bills receivable in London and remittances in transit, \$1,132,000; bills discounted, loans and advances to customers, and other sums due the bank, \$10,450,000; bank premises, \$625,700. If the \$232,340 set aside to cover outstanding liabilities of customers and others on letters of credit be included, the assets total \$81,603,740.

The year's business shows a profit of but \$10,800, which has been equally apportioned to the reserve and redemption funds. In explanation of this small balance it should be stated that the bank started operations with no capital and immediately charged off to profit and loss the cost of equipping the various banking offices, and profits up to this time have been applied to wiping out this charge.

American chemicals and pharmaceutical products are now being purchased in large quantities by a chemist of Barcelona, whose desire was made known by Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst through the Trade Opportunity page of COMMERCE REPORTS. The inquirer received a number of replies and has been appointed the representative in Spain for a Philadelphia house.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he received in stock during the week ended October 9 the following new United States Government publications of a business character, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Corporations: Report of Commissioner of Corporations on State Laws concerning Foreign Corporations, including "What is a Foreign Corporation?" "A Right to do Business," etc.—Statutory provisions of the States, Federal constitutional limitations, with table of cases. Price, 25¢.

Taxation of Corporations, Part 6, Southern and Southwestern States—Report of the Commissioner of Corporations on the System of Taxing Manufacturing, Mercantile, Transportation, and Transmission Corporations in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, March 15, 1913—Embracing purposes and plans, with abstracts by States, and systems by States, table of cases, and indexes. Price, 35¢.

The Shasta Route and Coast Line, Geological Survey Bulletin 614, Part D of Guidebooks of the Western United States—Describing geologic and scenic features of the route, with travel guide and other interesting maps. Price, \$1.

Purification of Public Water Supplies, Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 315, reprint—Covering pollution of water, sources of water supply, filtration, sterilization, etc. Price, 10¢.

Rules and Regulations for Metal Mines, Mines Bureau Bulletin 75—Covering scope of the committee, digest of State laws, and drafts of proposed laws by the committee. Price, 35¢.

Extension of Public Education.—A study in the wider use of school buildings, Education Bulletin 28, 1915—Work on civic use of schools others than for school purposes, such as playrooms, gymnasiums, community meetings, etc. Price, 20c.

Golden Seal, Cultivation and Handling of, Plant Industry, Circular 6—Giving habitat, range, collection and preparation of root, cultivation, market, and medicinal uses. Price, 5c.

Functions and Uses of Food, Experiment Stations Bulletin 46, revised, reprint—Covering uses of food, such as meat, fish, vegetables, etc., with tables of their nutritive values. Price, 5c.

Dates of Egypt and the Sudan, Agriculture Department Bulletin 271—The Nile Valley dates, climatic environments, description, varieties, etc. Price, 20c.

Miscellaneous Insecticide Investigations, Agriculture Department Bulletin 278—A series of experiments with the use of insecticides, with methods of tests and results. Price, 10c.

Apple Market Investigation, 1914-15, Agriculture Department Bulletin 302—Embracing the conditions covering the movement of the crop, studies in the market, grades, packing, cold storage, export, etc. Price, 10c.

AVIATION SCHOOL IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Sept. 16.]

On October 1, 1915, there will be opened the new Spanish Aerodrome at Getafe (about 5 miles outside the city limits of Madrid). The Spanish Government will assist those receiving instruction. The number of pilots to be instructed is limited to 12, and they will pay 500 pesetas each, to cover cost of fuel, etc. The fee for instruction of mechanics is nominal—2.50 pesetas. (The peseta is equivalent to about 19.5 cents.) The headquarters of the school is in Madrid, at Santa Isabel, 13.

Canadian butter is arriving at Cape Town for the first time in several years; fair quality is retailing at 50 to 54 cents per pound.

NETHERLANDS TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 22.]

Business Failures—Sumatra Rubber Yield.

According to a local commercial bureau, there were 979 business failures in the Netherlands from January 1 to September 18, 1915, against 1,182 during the corresponding period of 1914.

A Sumatra rubber company, with office in Amsterdam, reports an output of 137,913 pounds during the first eight months of this year, against a total production of 145,073 pounds and 92,603 pounds during the whole of 1914 and 1913, respectively.

Prosperous Dutch Fisheries—Crop Outlook.

As a further indication of apparent prosperity in the Dutch fishing industry, referred to in a previous report from this consulate [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 11, 1915, p. 160; also the issue for Oct. 9, p. 141], it is now stated that on a recent day the sales in the great fish market at Ymuiden, at the entrance to the North Sea Canal, amounted to the equivalent of \$58,000—the largest single day's business since it was established.

Too much rain in August impaired growing field crops more or less. All grain suffered, wheat and oats the most. Practically all vegetables were affected to some extent. The September weather, so far, has been sunny and fairly warm, tending to repair the August damage where not too late. On the whole, fair crops of all field products are now assured, without extraordinary yields of any particular varieties.

Dyestuff Shortage.

The textile factories in this consular district recently suffered from a shortage of yarn. That difficulty having been removed, a new trouble has arisen in a deficiency of dyestuffs. Germany has been the source of supply, but as only 50 to 75 per cent of the former supply has been received of late the situation is becoming serious. An appeal for help has been made to the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Sept. 17.]

New Waxed-Paper Industry.

One of the results of the war is to direct attention to the home production of articles which have heretofore been so easily and cheaply imported that it was not considered worth while to manufacture them. In the Netherlands many small industries are growing up for supplying domestic wants; for example, the preparation of waxed or paraffined paper, which is used to a large extent for wrapping butter and cheese. Catz Bros., importers, of Rotterdam, have recently installed machinery for coating this paper.

Scarcity of Rubber Tires.

Tires for automobiles and motorcycles are now almost unobtainable in the Netherlands. Importations are not one-fourth of the requirements. Whenever any are imported at all, they must be consigned to the Netherlands Oversea Trust, which distributes them sparingly direct to consumers, who must bring up and deliver an old tire for each new one received, and who must give a bank guaranty that the tires will not be exported, and in any case no more than six tires will be delivered to one applicant.

COTTON CONSUMPTION AND SUPPLIES.

The following table, prepared by the United States Bureau of Census, shows the cotton consumed, cotton on hand, and active cotton spindles in the United States for the month of September, 1915 and 1914, with statistics of cotton consumed for the two months ending with September. (The statistics of cotton in this report are given in running bales, counting round as half bales, except foreign cotton, which is in equivalent 500-pound bales.)

Locality.	Year.	Cotton consumed (bales) during—		Cotton on hand Sept. 30.		Cotton spindles active during September (number).
		Septem-ber.	2 months ending Sept. 30.	In consum- ing estab- lishments (bales).	In public storage and at com- presses (bales).	
United States	1915	498,219	962,705	1,069,614	2,796,500	31,295,104
	1914	414,864	798,544	558,892	1,663,625	30,307,154
Cotton-growing States	1915	275,223	523,679	499,933	2,493,002	12,772,863
	1914	229,163	427,732	162,224	1,552,397	12,249,286
All other States	1915	222,996	439,026	569,681	303,498	18,522,241
	1914	185,701	370,812	394,668	111,328	18,057,868

* Includes of foreign cotton 23,985 bales consumed, 97,176 bales on hand in consuming establishments, and 29,259 bales in public storage.

Linters, which are not included above, were 61,431 bales consumed during September in 1915 and 27,764 bales in 1914, 128,059 bales on hand in consuming establishments on September 30, 1915, and 63,386 bales in 1914, and 57,106 bales in public storage and at compresses in 1915 and 26,078 bales in 1914. Linters consumed during two months ending September 30 amounted to 117,330 bales in 1915 and 53,044 bales in 1914.

Imports and Exports of Cotton and Linters.

The imports and exports of cotton into and from the United States for September and for the two months ending with September, 1915 and 1914, follow:

Country of production.	Imports of foreign cotton (500-pound bales) during—				Country to which exported.	Exports of domestic cotton and linters (running bales) during—			
	September—		2 months ending Sept. 30—			September—		2 months ending Sept. 30—	
	1915	1914	1915	1914		1915	1914	1915	1914
Total...	26,197	15,315	45,187	42,402	Total...	502,031	125,778	664,090	146,988
Egypt.....	16,505	8,912	29,681	13,241	United Kingdom.....	239,497	50,980	264,245	57,350
Peru.....	9	516	343	1,075	Germany.....	None.	None.	None.	52
China.....	5,074	1,201	5,901	3,187	France.....	92,217	None.	101,746	5
All other countries...	4,609	4,686	9,172	24,899	Italy.....	121,043	16,678	169,068	18,224
					All other countries..	58,274	58,120	129,031	71,357

* Figures include 10,624 bales of linters exported during September in 1915 and 1,808 bales in 1914, and 22,106 bales for two months ending September 30 in 1915 and 2,093 bales in 1914. The distribution for September, 1915, is as follows: United Kingdom, none; Germany, none; France, 7,372; Italy, 1,641; and all other countries, 1,611.

GERMAN TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

In view of the general interest in the Russian market and the importance attached to German methods in promoting foreign trade the following article from the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" is called to the attention of American exporters as it throws additional light on the special requirements of the Russian market, which should be carefully considered in connection with any forecasts in regard to the commercial relations of Russia after the restoration of peace. The article, which is entitled "The Prospects for German Exports to Russia," reads as follows:

As far as a boycott of all German goods in Russia is concerned there is no danger of that. Neither is Germany in danger of being compelled to yield the Russian market to neutral or the allied countries. The Russian merchant is in certain respects still a very conservative buyer who does not take readily to innovations. He is also more apt to take chances with his money than with the goods he handles and generally orders the goods he is used to buying, even after improved articles have been placed on the market. Many German factories have great difficulties in supplying some of the obsolete articles ordered. Thus, the carpets that were bought 20 years ago are still in demand; the style of electrical apparatus has not changed for 10 years, while the same kind of shawls have been supplied for the last 30 years.

It is hard to believe that a neutral country could sell in Russia any considerable quantity of scythes or manure forks, since the former must come from Styria and the latter from Westphalia, and it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to explain to the Russian peasant that another make may be just as good.

The result of intensive cultivation of a market for a long period of years, as has been done by Germany in the case of Russia, can not disappear all of a sudden. Then the question of credit plays an essential part in the Russian market, as very long terms are granted, a practice unfortunately introduced by the Germans as a result of keen competition. Credits of 6, 9, 12, and, in the case of textiles, even 14 months are very common and are usually granted without indorsement and frequently extended. In the majority of cases the manufacturer's agent provides for the payment, and the Russian merchants settle their accounts, not in cash, but mostly by means of coupons from securities, which do not fall due for a year, and on which a loss of 1½ per cent is incurred when they are converted into cash. Such are the customs of the Russians, which seem to suit their convenience and from which it would be difficult to get them away. In my own experience, extending for a period of years, I have not been able to obtain such terms from an English house for the very good reason that long-term paper is not discounted by English banks.

These, however, are not the principal requirements for doing business in Russia. The Russian buyer is still paying more attention to price than to quality, and he who quotes the lowest price has the best chance for getting the business. In this respect, however, other countries will find it very difficult to compete with Germany. This is due partly to the fact that their factories are not adapted to large-scale production and partly because they can not produce so cheaply, since they have to import their raw materials. Take, for example, an article of extensive manufacture like enamel ware. What country can produce enamel ware as cheaply as Germany does? In the case of electrical supplies, Germany has practically no competition in the Russian market; in the fancy goods trade Germany has a very large share, the few French houses being negligible. I could name many more articles. Who, for instance, could compete with Germany in coal-tar dyes, pharmaceutical products, etc.?

In visiting the business houses or industrial establishments in Russia whom do we find as managers, foremen, or superintendents? Almost invariably Germans. One hardly finds an English or a French boss-dyer, fitter, or manager of a wholesale or retail establishment. Practically all buyers in the large business houses are Germans or Russians, but not French or English.

As a result of long years of cooperation there has developed a sense of mutual confidence, and why should it disappear all of a sudden? This confidence is felt not only in the German but also in their products, and the Russians will probably remain conservative. A boycott of German goods is altogether out of the question, for the mere reason that the ties resulting from a community

of interests extending for a long period of years will blind the two countries again after the conclusion of the war.

In conclusion it may be noted that there is hardly a German commercial house of any size that is not represented in Russia, and that there is a whole staff of German agents and other people who have for years been making their living through German houses, and it is hardly likely that they will suddenly take up with new ventures for the mere purpose of persuading the Russian peasant that French and English goods are better than German. After the war is over the Russian peasant will know no more about France or England than he did before the war, for while he probably never heard English or French he knows something about German, and the Germans saw to it that in every small town there should be some German representative of their business.

NORTH AMERICAN SEED POTATOES FOR BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Bermuda, Aug. 18.]

The Government of Bermuda is directing a great deal of attention to the improvement of its stock of potatoes and has recently so amended the regulations under the potato importation act of 1914 that field inspection is now obligatory. Early in the year Bermuda merchants were notified of the Government's intention to amend the regulations, and those who contracted for seed potatoes did so subject to their passing an official inspection while growing.

In carrying out the new regulations, the Director of Agriculture paid a personal visit in July to the farms of Long Island and Maine where potatoes were being grown under contract for the Bermuda market, and upon his return submitted a detailed report which was published in full as a supplement to the Royal Gazette. A copy of this supplement is transmitted herewith [and is filed (as No. 65774) in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington].

[Consul General Evan M. Young, Halifax, Sept. 27.]

Expert Advice for Nova Scotia Growers.

As a result of the efforts of the Secretary of Agriculture for the Province of Nova Scotia and the Director of Agriculture for Bermuda, one of the Dominion plant pathologists will visit Nova Scotia to give expert advice to the farmers who are growing potato seed for the Bermuda export trade. A large quantity of the best seed will be selected, with the assistance of the pathologist, during the digging season this fall, and it is confidently believed that as a result of this method of procedure the exportation of seed potatoes from Nova Scotia to Bermuda will very materially increase.

IRON COINS IN GERMANY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Sept. 7.]

According to a recent ordinance of the Bundesrat, the Imperial Chancellor is empowered to authorize the coining of 5-pfennig pieces out of iron to the value of 5,000,000 marks. These coins are to have a milled edge and will contain the words "Deutsches Reich" over the figure "5" and the word "pfennig" under it, followed by the date. The obverse will have the usual stamp of the Imperial coat of arms. The new coins are to replace those now made of nickel and copper, and they shall be withdrawn from circulation not later than two years after the conclusion of the present war.

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF UNITED STATES FOR AUGUST.

The following table, prepared by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, gives the imports and exports of the United States by great groups during August, 1914 and 1915, and the eight months ended August, 1914 and 1915:

Groups.	Month of August—		8 months ended August—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
IMPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$40,751,223	\$53,464,950	\$436,234,340	\$435,468,749
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	15,813,363	18,192,354	159,110,350	147,181,187
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	23,121,406	21,755,114	181,199,630	205,467,437
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	19,030,326	23,069,889	198,584,411	163,517,164
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	28,635,305	24,668,236	264,499,559	191,056,527
Miscellaneous.....	1,416,207	679,659	10,735,973	7,803,306
Total imports.....	129,787,890	141,830,202	1,270,361,263	1,150,684,760
EXPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	12,237,695	23,990,904	340,514,771	375,085,937
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	28,610,358	25,878,273	108,805,767	299,317,657
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	18,596,504	42,181,916	170,685,495	405,012,262
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	16,208,545	40,712,783	240,692,256	285,737,732
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	32,337,363	113,189,014	421,912,525	753,352,281
Miscellaneous.....	187,797	11,213,031	4,263,733	86,060,599
Total domestic exports.....	108,198,262	257,065,921	1,286,874,547	2,194,566,768
Foreign merchandise exported.....	2,169,232	3,905,694	24,475,109	37,187,962
Total exports.....	110,367,494	260,971,615	1,311,349,656	2,231,754,730

The increase in the exports for August, 1915, in the item miscellaneous to a total of \$11,213,031 arises from the exportation of horses in that month to the value of \$3,592,855, of mules to the value of \$2,528,765, and of seeds valued at \$74,791.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION OF PEKING.

[Extract from Peking Daily News of Sept. 2, by Commercial Attaché Julian H. Arnold, Peking.]

The opening ceremony of the local industrial exhibition took place in the Temple of Agriculture on September 1. Before a fair-sized audience the president called the meeting to order, and with a few brief remarks introduced several speakers, consisting of important local officials, industrial representatives, and distinguished visitors. After the meeting a group picture was taken, and the president conducted the guests for a review of the exhibits.

This exhibition is a sort of preliminary to the national exhibition to be held later on during the month in the Industrial Museum of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce. It is the general rule to have the materials so collected exhibited locally first before they are made a part of the national or international affair. Elaborate preparations have already been made at the Museum for the accommodation of exhibits from all over the country and it is expected that the event will be quite on the same scale as the one held at Nanking in 1911, in spite of the rather limited space in Peking.

MOTION-PICTURE ADVERTISING IN GERMANY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Aug. 21.]

A report from the Breslau consulate on the motion-picture situation in this district, which was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for April 3, 1915, has called forth so many letters of inquiry from the United States that further particulars as to the advertising slides used—that being one of the points on which interest centered—would seem to be desirable. Most of these slides are plain, steady advertisements in print and picture, similar to program or high-class magazine advertising. They may be in black and white or in colors. It is not at all uncommon, however, to see such advertising on regular motion-picture films, and a few examples will perhaps be in order.

The Dorndorf Shoe Stores recently used a kind of puzzle picture in which the letters D-o-r-n-d-o-r-f were made to appear in irregular order, but each letter, after more or less confusion, finally arranged itself in place. This was followed by a display of shoes, which were made to walk out upon the screen, arrange themselves in military style, and then parade around the picture doing the famous "goose step." In another instance a customer was made to appear in one of their six stores in Breslau, the shoe boxes came from their places on the shelves, opened themselves, the shoes came forth, placed themselves upon the customer's foot one after another until the customer showed by his happy smile that he was satisfied. Clerks were not in attendance at all. The motto was "Dorndorf shoes sell themselves."

Another very clever reel shows a Turk in the harem with his favorite, surrounded by luxuries of all descriptions. After a very interesting love scene, which lasts a few minutes, the favorite brings a small tabouret into the room. Upon it is a package of "Salem Alikuman cigarettes," which she presents to her lord and which are the "Favorite," of course. This reel is used by a number of theaters as an "extra."

Perhaps the boldest and most elaborate advertising film which has been going the rounds of the Breslau theaters is entitled "Who is she?" This is a two-reel play, in which the attention centers upon a pretty girl temporarily, but the mask is so skillfully withdrawn that the audience is rather pleased after all to know that the two reels have been advertising an automobile.

USE OF WORD "INCHES" IN MADRID DISTRICT.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Spain, Sept. 15.]

The consulate at Madrid notes the increasing number of catalogues printed in the Spanish language which are being sent for the consulate files. American exporters, however, should be notified that the "inch" is a linear dimension which varies in this district. Dictionaries correctly translate the word into Spanish as "pulgada," but the pulgada as used in the Madrid district is only about nine-tenths of the American inch. Where small dimensions are quoted by American exporters—as, for instance, copper wire, string, etc.—it is preferable to use the metric system in catalogues and correspondence. This system is the standard in the district, and no confusion will result from its employment.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

ARGENTINA.

[Boletín Oficial, July 28 and Aug. 13, 1915.]

Classification of Petroleum and Petroleum Products.

A decree of the President of Argentina, dated July 17, 1915, in effect October 1, 1915, revokes article 20 of the customs regulations on the subject of testing and classification of petroleum and petroleum products and prescribes new standards, while leaving the rates of duty unchanged. The change was made with a view to eliminating certain ambiguities and obsolete terms, pointed out in a report by the director of the National Chemical Laboratories. The National Chemical Laboratories will conduct tests to determine density, point of distillation, flash point, viscosity, and other data necessary to the proper classification of each consignment.

Under the new regulations the only classes of oils entitled to free admission under tariff No. 45 are the following: Crude petroleum, i. e., that subjected to no process except separating the water and solid impurities; mixtures of hydrocarbons having a density of not over 0.73 at 15° C. and distilling not less than 90 per cent of their volume at 120° C. (Engler process); and gas and shale oils of a density of 0.83 to 0.90 at 15° C., having a flash point less than 150° C. in a Pensky-Martens instrument and a viscosity less than 6° at 20° C., and distilling not more than 20 per cent of their volume up to 300° C. (Engler process), when imported exclusively by gas companies for carbureting purposes. Beginning October 1, 1915, there will be required legalized certificates of origin for crude petroleum, specifying the region or district from which it has been obtained, such certificate to accompany the samples submitted for analysis.

The following table shows the new tariff classification of petroleum products not entitled to free admission, the rate of duty being in each case 27 per cent (including surtax), based on the official valuation:

[Peso, \$0.965; kilo, 2.2046 pounds.]

Tariff No.	Products.	Official valuation.
194	Kerosene and all petroleum products of density of 0.78 to 0.83 and distilling at least 80 per cent of their volume between 150° and 300° C. (Engler process), with a minimum flash point of 40° C. (Abel process)	Peso per kilo. 0.03
2779	Impure paraffin oil, including oils specified in No. 3326 when not entirely clarified and purified, the distillation of which begins at 300° C.	.20
2791	Mineral oils not specified, including all clarified or refined oils of a density greater than 0.85 and viscosity greater than 3° at 20° C. (Engler process), having a flash point above 150° (Pensky-Martens instrument), and distilling not over 10 per cent up to 300° C.	.10
3183	Ligroin and similar products, including hydrocarbons of a density of 0.73 to 0.78 and distilling between 120° and 180° (Engler process); unrectified benzines of density greater than 0.78, in which benzenic hydrocarbons predominate	.10
3326	Liquid vaseline or paraffin oils, including all mineral oils which are entirely pure, clear, colorless, odorless, and without fluorescence, of density of 0.84 to 0.89, whose distillation begins at 350° C.	.60
3270	Residues of crude petroleum, including gas and shale oils (not imported as above described) and residues of unrefined petroleum, of density greater than 0.90 at 45° C., and viscosity greater than 6° (Engler process), distilling less than 20 per cent up to 300° C., gross weight	0.03
.....	Petroleum products not specified in the tariff, ad valorem	26%

^a Unless otherwise stated, density is determined at a temperature of 15° C.

CANADA.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 18, 1915.]

Use of Canadian Marks on Imported Articles.

Canadian importers and dealers have frequently imported for sale articles stamped with their names or marks, without indicating the name of the manufacturer or the country of origin. Under the provisions of the customs law prohibiting the importation of goods manufactured in a foreign country which bear the name or trademark of a dealer in Canada or the United Kingdom or a British country, unless the country of origin is definitely indicated, the customs officials of Canada have recently been detaining all shipments of such articles until the labels were removed or statements as to origin in a foreign country were added. In cases where the nature of the articles imported made it impossible to add the required statement in regard to origin, such articles have been confiscated. A distinction has been drawn between the cases or receptacles intended as containers for certain articles and the articles themselves, and small empty cases or boxes of metal have been allowed to be imported even if marked only with the name of the Canadian dealer.

EGYPT.

[Journal Officiel, Aug. 30, 1915.]

Increase in Duties.

By a decree of August 30, 1915, the duties on alcoholic liquors, building lumber, and tobacco imported into Egypt are increased as follows:

[Egyptian pound, \$4.943.]

Articles.	Rates of duty in Egyptian pounds.	
	New.	Old.
Alcoholic liquors and beverages, ad valorem.....	10%	8%
Building lumber, ad valorem.....	8%	4%
Leaf tobacco.....	Per kilo.	Per kilo.
Stripped, pressed, cut, and ground tobacco and cigarettes.....	a 0.300	a 0.250
Cigars of all kinds.....	a .400	a .300

* Conventional rates applicable to products of the United States and other countries entitled to most-favored-nation treatment, when accompanied by certificates of origin.

ITALY.

[Gazzetta Ufficiale, Sept. 17, 1915.]

Temporary Export Duties.

A royal decree of September 15, 1915, in effect September 18, imposes an export duty of 1 per cent ad valorem (based on valuations for statistical purposes) on all articles shipped from Italy, with the exception of a few products on which the following specific export duties are to be levied, all duties to remain in effect until the end of the war [lira, \$0.193; hectoliter, 26.417 gallons]: Sulphuric acid, sodium nitrate, carbon sulphide, tanning materials (including sumac), beans, chestnuts, potatoes, bran, and oilcake, 0.50 lira per 100 kilos; nitric

acid, 0.80 lira per 100 kilos; tannic acid and extracts, copper sulphate, sugar, cereals (not specified), flour, semolina, and alimentary pastes, 1 lira per 100 kilos; rice and raw hemp, 2 lire per 100 kilos; combed hemp, 3 lire per 100 kilos; drugs and medicines, 10 lire per 100 kilos; iron ore and iron pyrites, 1 lira per metric ton; copper ore and copper pyrites, 2 lire per metric ton; automobiles, 50 lire each, and in addition 5 lire per horsepower; motor trucks, 100 lire each, and in addition 5 lire per horsepower.

The decree also provides for the following increases in the internal taxes imposed on certain products: Spirits, 20 lire per hectoliter of anhydrous alcohol; beer, 0.60 lira per hectoliter for each degree of alcohol; sugar, 5 lire per 100 kilos. In addition, the internal tax on the sale of mineral oils has been increased by 8 lire per 100 kilos.

VENEZUELA.

[Minister Preston McGoodwin, Caracas, Sept. 6, 1915.]

Charge on Catalogues Sent by Parcel Post.

Although catalogues are included in the free list of the Venezuelan customs tariff, there is a regulation in effect in that country which imposes a minimum charge of 6 reales (\$0.58) on all packages imported by parcel post. Catalogues as well as other advertising matter should therefore be forwarded by regular letter or book post and packages should be so wrapped as to permit of easy examination of the contents. [This matter was previously referred to in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 4, p. 26.]

SHORTAGE OF MOLASSES IN CANADA.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 25.]

Canada is facing a shortage of molasses that will be especially felt in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, these being the largest buyers. The market is depleted; stocks in the hands of traders are light and are not expected to meet the demand until the new crop arrives next March. In Prince Edward Island not a single puncheon is left.

The present price is the highest for many years, being 57 cents per gallon for puncheons of fancy and 48 cents for choice. In March the price for fancy was 45 cents; a year ago it was 38 cents. At this writing there is being sold in the Province of Quebec what is called "fancy blend," which, although not up to the standard, is stated to be of fair quality. It is reported that if it should happen that fancy molasses were unprocurable, fancy blend would be placed on the market as a substitute.

This year there has been a fairly good demand for choice molasses in view of the fact that it sells 10 to 12 cents below fancy. It is said that the trade in choice in the Province of Quebec has doubled this year for this reason.

An important Buenos Aires trading company writes that, through assistance rendered its representative while in the United States by the New York branch of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, it has established connections with some of the leading North American manufacturers.

A \$300 OVERSIGHT.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

Just a bit of bad judgment or a lack of information may turn a bargain in New York or New Orleans into a disastrous loss in one of the Central American Republics. For instance, some time ago a dealer in one of these countries received from the United States a shipment of leaf tobacco packed in zinc-lined wooden cases, instead of the customary bales. The difference in freight and duties amounted to \$300. This was a total and unnecessary loss, and the Central American was much concerned over it, as it was his first order to the house and he did not know what would be done about the matter.

The American consul was consulted, and he took the subject up in a friendly and unofficial way, with the result that the firm shipping the tobacco acknowledged its fault in not ascertaining that the duty on tobacco was on the gross weight instead of ad valorem and that the packing cases had to be paid for at the same rate as the tobacco. The American firm stood the loss. The outcome has been that many repeat orders have been obtained from the exercise of this sense of justice. The Central American is convinced of the entire "squareness" of his dealer; and the latter has found out how to do business profitably and eliminate all causes for complaint.

A Knowledge of Tariff Regulations Essential.

Doubtless the firm shipping the tobacco was trying to do the right thing in the first instance and protect the tobacco from climatic changes or the like, but it was at fault in not ascertaining the tariff requirements of the country to which the shipment was destined. These could easily have been learned had application been made to the consul general of the country or to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington; the information could have been had for the asking. The above instance is merely one of the small points of export business likely to prove expensive if overlooked.

It is essential to have an understanding of the tariff laws of each Republic as they bear upon the particular class of goods proposed to be exported there. Central America consists of the six sovereign Republics of Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and the British Crown colony of British Honduras. Each country has a separate tariff, a different money, and customs regulations varying in greater or less degree, and each country presents a separate problem for the American exporter, which should be solved before experience has imposed a penalty for the lack of foreknowledge.

INCREASE OF IMPORTS INTO FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, American Embassy, Paris, Sept. 11.]

The French customs authorities announce that the imports of food products for the first seven months of 1915 show an increase of \$18,528,000 over the corresponding period of last year; and the imports of manufactured articles show an increase of \$76,428,000. Raw materials, however, show a decrease of \$233,916,000. The exports compared for the same period show a decrease of \$18,335,000 for food products, \$143,592,000 for raw materials, \$218,283,000 for manufactured goods, and \$35,126,000 for post parcels.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

- Textiles, elastic goods, etc.*, No. 18759.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a general agent in that country desires to secure the sole agency for American manufacturers of textiles, such as hosiery, piece goods, and elastic goods. He prefers to act on a commission basis, but is willing to purchase certain articles on his own account.
- Potash fertilizers*, No. 18760.—The Bureau has been informed by an American consular officer in India that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of potash fertilizers. Quotations should be c. i. f. port of entry, India. Correspondence may be in English.
- Smokers' articles*, No. 18761.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm of cigarette and cigar manufacturers in his district desires to purchase smokers' articles of various kinds. Catalogues, price lists, etc., should be sent at once.
- Caustic lime*, No. 18762.—An American consular officer in Peru reports that an importer in his district desires to purchase immediately, as a sample order, about 18 tons of pure caustic lime to be used on sugar plantations for the defecation of cane juice. Full particulars as to quality, price, shipping facilities, etc., should be sent at once. C. i. f. quotations are preferred. References are given. Correspondence may be in English.
- Iron hoops, brass sheets, etc.*, No. 18763.—A merchant in India has informed an American consular officer that he desires to purchase iron hoops of the following sizes: 1½ inches, 2 inches, 2½ inches, and 2¾ inches; iron and steel rods, round and square, iron nails of different sizes, brass and iron screws, bolts, nuts, rings, lamps, and chimneys, and brass sheets. Correspondence may be in English.
- Wrist watches*, No. 18764.—An American consular officer in France reports that a business man in his district desires to receive catalogues and prices of nickel watches with leather strap bracelets. Correspondence may be in English.
- Pasteboard boxes*, No. 18765.—The Bureau has been informed by an American consular officer in Canada that a man in his district desires to communicate with American exporters of pasteboard boxes with partitions suitable for use in packing tubes of paste solder. Reference is given.
- Machinery*, No. 18766.—A report has been received from an American consular officer in Madagascar stating that a business man desires to purchase machinery suitable for cleaning and spinning ureno-lobata fiber and for weaving this product into bags. Correspondence, catalogues, etc., should be in French, if possible, and prices quoted c. i. f. nearest port.
- Fireproof paint*, No. 18767.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a manufacturer of shingles in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of fireproof paint for use in treating cedar shingles. Reference is given.
- Automobile accessories*, No. 18768.—A business firm in Argentina has informed an American consular officer that he desires to secure the agency, on a commission basis, of American manufacturers of automobile tires and accessories and mineral oils. References are given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Knitting and sewing needles*, No. 18769.—An American consular officer in France has been informed by a business firm in his district of its desire to communicate with American manufacturers of knitting and sewing needles. Correspondence should be in French.
- Stationery, artificial limbs, surgical apparatus, etc.*, No. 18770.—An American consular officer in France reports that a commission agent in that country desires to represent American manufacturers of pencils, erasers, steel pens, paper novelties, hardware, and small machines, artificial limbs, surgical hand-sets and apparatus. Reference is given.

- Haberdashery**, No. 18771.—A business firm in Greece informs an American consular officer that they desire to establish business relations with American manufacturers or exporters of general haberdashery, such as collars, cuffs, hosliery, gloves, handkerchiefs, and purses. Catalogues, price lists, etc., are requested, and samples if possible. Correspondence may be in English.
- Arsenic**, No. 18772.—The Bureau is in receipt of a report from an American consular officer in Canada to the effect that a business man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of arsenic. Reference is given.
- Tobacco**, No. 18773.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that an importer in his district desires to receive samples, prices, etc., of brown Virginia tobacco. Kentucky tobacco is not desired. The importer does not care to deal with any trust. Correspondence may be in English. In order to meet conditions of previous trade it is desirable that tobacco be packed in barrels of about 1,500 pounds capacity. Reference is given.
- Umbrella parts**, No. 18774.—A manufacturer of umbrellas in France has informed an American consular officer that he desires to establish business relations with American manufacturers of umbrella parts. He states that he is in a position to purchase about \$60,000 worth of goods annually. Reference is given.
- Black pepper**, No. 18775.—An American consular officer in Greece reports that a business firm in that country desires to purchase crude black pepper. The firm indicates a desire to order about 100 bags of pepper at a time. If possible, prices should be quoted either per 100 kilos or per 100 pounds c. i. f. Greek port. Correspondence should be in French.
- Printing machinery**, No. 18776.—A State official in Brazil has informed an American consular officer that his Government desires to receive catalogues, prices, etc., of printing and engraving machines and such other materials as may be necessary in the establishment of a modern printing office. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Brazilian port.
- Alcohol**, No. 18777.—An American consular officer in France reports that a business firm in his district desires to establish relations with American manufacturers or exporters of 90 per cent alcohol. Full information should be sent at once. If possible, prices should be quoted c. i. f. French ports. Correspondence may be in English.
- Dry paint**, No. 18778.—A business man in Canada has informed an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of dry paint. Reference is given.
- Cotton twist**, No. 18779.—A firm in Scotland has informed an American consular officer that it desires to purchase supplies of cotton twist, such as 8 lea 4 ply, suitable for sewing bags. The firm desires to receive samples with quotations; goods to be delivered c. i. f. British port. Terms cash. Prompt delivery essential.
- Paper**, No. 18780.—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase paper, samples of which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 66847.) Quotations must be made "free delivery Paris."
- Rubber bands**, No. 18781.—A firm in Switzerland informs an American consular officer that it desires to establish business relations with American manufacturers of rubber bands for use in making tin cans air-tight. The rubber must be of purest quality and free from acids. Samples of the bands desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 66821.) Prices may be either f. o. b. New York or c. i. f. French port. Customary American terms and conditions are accepted. Correspondence may be in English.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 2707.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 26, 1915, for furnishing the following material. Firms interested therein should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving the schedule numbers desired: Schedule 8885, 1-gallon paint cans, 5-pound petrolatum cans, and whitening in boxes and barrels. Bids will also be received until November 2, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8881, railroad tank car; schedule 8882, electric hoists; schedule 8889, building sand; schedule 8890, bar steel; schedule 8891, portable blacksmiths' forges, hasps and staples, chest hasps, ball-tipped fast-pin butt hinges, ball-tipped loose-pin butt hinges, and hammock rings; schedule 8892, sheet lead in rolls, soft wiping solder, cast-iron pipe fitting, and wrought pipe; schedule 8893, paint brushes, white table felt, 54 inches wide, American double-dressed hemp, rawhide leather lacing, rubber wash deck hose, and steel safes for mail clerks; schedule 8894, single-conductor wire; schedule 8895, casting brushes, ammonium battery chloride, silver-lead facings, gravel, heavy iron core sand, brass nuts, brass angles, and ferromanganese; schedule 8896, composition pipe fittings and composition unions; schedule 8897, bath brick and silver-plated ware; and schedule 8899, white lead in oil, and white-leaded zinc in oil. Bids will be received until November 9, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8886, 40-inch wide burlap, 1-gallon paint cans, emery cloth, ball-tipped loose-pin butt hinges, light rigging leather, padlocks, wrought pipe, and paint and varnish remover; schedule 8887, rubber fire hose and suction hose; schedule 8888, composition bolts and nuts, loofah-fiber sponges, and composition unions; and schedule 8898, cap ribbons. Bids will be received until November 16, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8883, stockless anchors; and schedule 8900, American pea beans, raisins, and sirup in half barrels. Bids will also be received until November 23, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8884, steel rods for reinforcing concrete; and schedule 8901, evaporated apples, evaporated peaches, and rice.

Concrete roads, No. 2708.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Standards, Room 300, Southern Building, Washington, D. C., until October 18, 1915, for the construction of concrete roads. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the Superintendent, Mechanical Plant.

Medical supplies, No. 2709.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, U. S. A., Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 19, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse "D," foot of Laguna Street, Fort Mason, one gas-oxygen apparatus and attachments.

Medical supplies, No. 2710.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, U. S. A., 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until October 20, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the depot folding saddle bags, hypodermic syringes, small pocket cases, aluminum saddle-bag trays, and Farrier's instrument pocket cases.

Medical supplies, No. 2711.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, U. S. A., Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 21, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at warehouse "D," foot of Laguna Street, Fort Mason, forceps, keratome, wire saw, stethoscope, dilator, handle for dilator, electric cautery set, electric current controller, water filter, filiform guides, needles, metal sounds with filiform guides, syringe, specialist's chair, nasal speculum, and needles for hypodermic syringe.

Water tanks, No. 2712.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass., until October 22, 1915, for rearranging water tanks of light vessel No. 86. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

No. 243 Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 16 1915

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STEAMER SPACE FOR CARGOES FROM FRANCE.

The New York branch of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reports that a French concern which is delivering large quantities of American goods in Europe has chartered its own steamer and is anxious to open up negotiations with firms in the United States which are importing goods from France. This is a favorable opportunity for American importers, as the French company expects to have a large amount of cargo space available on the return voyages and it will rent this space at a reasonable figure.

LATIN-AMERICAN AGENT SEEKS NEW CONNECTIONS.

[Commercial Agent E. E. Judd, New Orleans, Oct. 7.]

One of the commercial agents of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has introduced to the New Orleans branch a representative of a large commission agent, who operates throughout Central America and the west coast of South America. This agent has hitherto represented only European firms and has handled some of the best-known European lines. He is reported as having a complete organization, with main offices in Lima and Valparaiso. His European connections are unable to keep up their business at present, and he has turned to the United States to form permanent connections with American firms. He is willing to make long contracts to insure the maintenance of this business after the close of the war.

The name of his representative in the United States may be obtained upon application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

The acreage for clover seed in the United States this year is estimated by the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture at 114.5 per cent of last year's acreage. The condition of the crop on September 1 was estimated at 80.3 per cent of normal, which compares with 77.3 per cent a year ago, and 79.7 per cent, average for the past 10 years on September 1. These figures forecast a moderately larger crop this year than last year.

PACIFIC OCEAN SHIPPING ADJUSTMENT.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 4.]

The readjustment of shipping on the Pacific Ocean made necessary by the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co.'s services has been further developed by the sale of the steamship *Persia*, one of its vessels sailing under the British flag, to the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, the competing Japanese line, which is to take the vessel over at the end of its current voyage to Hongkong. The service of the Pacific Mail to the Far East therefore ends abruptly with the arrival of the *Persia* in Hongkong on October 11. This sale gives the Toyo Kisen Kaisha five ships for the trans-Pacific service. Efforts to secure further tonnage for such service so far have been unsuccessful.

The effect of the change in service on passenger traffic already is apparent in some respects, for, in spite of the dull season, passenger accommodations already are difficult to secure. The effect of the contraction of the service is likely to be felt more acutely during the autumn in sailings from America rather than sailings from Hongkong, though vessels from Hongkong already are practically fully engaged.

New Freight Rates.

What the ultimate level of freight rates on the Pacific as a result of the recent changes and the general contraction of available tonnage will be is a matter of considerable uncertainty, though all shipping experts in this part of the world declare that a marked advance in rates is inevitable and imperative, and the only question is as to how marked the advance will be and what ultimate level will be reached.

The latest actual announcement in this connection is that of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha as to an advance in freights on American products shipped from Tacoma and Puget Sound ports to the Orient. This advance on American produce in some respects is significant. The rate announced is one of \$5.50 gold on flour and wheat to Japan and \$6 gold on the same commodities to Manila and Hongkong. The rate on lumber is to be \$9 to Japan and \$11 to Hongkong and Manila per 1,000 board feet. The rate on dried fish is to be \$6.50 to Japan and \$7.50 to Hongkong and Manila per measured ton. These rates are well toward twice the rates obtaining on the same commodities before the opening of the war in Europe.

The chief significance of the rates, however, lies in the fact that it is on American freight outward rather than on Japanese freight homeward that the advance is made. The fact of the matter is that advances on Japanese freight homeward are probably to be comparatively few and of slight moment. Heretofore in all advances of rates by the Conference lines the Japanese Government, controlling the Japanese lines by the subsidy paid them for their services, has prevented marked advance in homeward rates on freight in which Japan was interested. This policy is undoubtedly to be followed in the coming readjustment. In other words, the Japanese interests, through the subsidies paid their lines, are to control rates for the benefit of Japanese trade.

Disappearance of Competition.

The control of rates to the advantage of Japanese trade is to be practically absolute, for Japanese lines dominate the situation in the

Pacific absolutely. Of the 490,000 tons or so of available tonnage in all trans-Pacific service available after the withdrawal of the American line probably 430,000 tons are Japanese, all controlled wholly, through subsidies, by the Japanese Government. It is becoming quite evident, therefore, that all other trade in and with the Far East is to be under Japanese control. With the full pinch of the shortage of tonnage experienced it is becoming more and more evident that no Chinese cargo or through cargo transshipped at Hongkong for the United States by way of the Pacific can be expected from Hongkong until all cargo has been carried from Japanese ports. Naturally the rate of freight to be charged on all such cargo will be all that the traffic will bear, while at the same time freight from Japan will be carried at present rates or at comparatively slight advance.

One result of this situation is the general understanding among shipping men that the service of Japanese ships between Japan and the United States will be accelerated and strengthened so as to fill gaps caused by the disappearance of the Pacific Mail steamers from the route, the result being that steamer service between Hongkong and Japan and Hongkong and the United States by way of Japan will be weakened and become more of a local service for the time being. Announcement to this end is anticipated shortly.

A factor in the situation which is likely to be of great importance in that it will prevent the transfer of Japanese or other ships to the Pacific trade is the increasing demand for tonnage from the Far East to Europe. So far, as present indications lie, no relief for the trans-Pacific situation is in sight in the transfer of vessels from other parts of the world.

CORRECTION: The consul general desires that his article on "Crisis in Shipping on the Pacific," in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 30, 1915, on page 1524, in the middle of page, should read: "The Osaka Shosen Kaisha, two sailings per month," etc.

CONDEMNED SURVEY VESSELS TO BE SOLD.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has approved the recommendation of Dr. E. Lester Jones, Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, that the survey vessels *Gedney* and *McArthur* be condemned and sold.

On November 10, 1914, the local inspectors of the Steamboat-Inspection Service at Seattle, Wash., made an extensive examination of the *Gedney* and reported that, on account of her age, general weakened condition, and lack of power, it would be imprudent to begin operations with her until late enough in the season to be reasonably sure of calm weather, in view of which Secretary Redfield limited the use of this vessel to surveying inside waters.

A similar detailed examination of the *McArthur* was made by the local inspectors at Seattle on November 27, 1914, and their report showed that she was in even worse condition than the *Gedney*, and unfit for use except on inland or protected waters.

Since their inspection these vessels have been in commission another season, and the cost of maintenance has not only become excessive, but the bad condition of both vessels has increased. The further use of these old vessels would jeopardize human life and repairs would be uneconomical and a waste of money.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF GOVERNMENT FURS.

[From St. Louis Office of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

Dealers in all parts of the world are invited to attend the public auction of the United States Government's Alaska blue and white fox skins in St. Louis on October 21 and 22, 1915. It will be conducted by Funsten Bros. & Co. The Alaska sealskins will not be offered at this sale.

Until two years ago the United States Government's fur skins were sold in London. In 1913 the Government contracted with Funsten Bros. & Co. to hold the sales in St. Louis. The first sale of Alaska fur seal and blue and white fox skins, which was held on December 16, 1913, netted the Government 5 per cent more on the sealskins and 10 to 15 per cent more on the fox skins than had the previous sale in London.

St. Louis is the largest primary market for furs in the world. London is the largest auction market, and it handles furs from all countries, while the St. Louis market is confined largely to North American (including Canadian) furs. By "primary market" is meant that the goods coming to this market are consigned direct from trappers and traders in the trapping sections of North America to receiving houses in St. Louis, which sell to dealers.

Of the 8 or 10 of these receiving houses, 2 operate "exchanges," holding public sales on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays during the season, which begins in October. In normal seasons these houses receive a daily average of 2,000 shipments by freight, express, and parcel post. These shipments come from trappers in every State in the United States and every Province in Canada and from Alaska, and include muskrat, mink, beaver, skunk, opossum, raccoon, fox, ermine, etc. The receiving houses remit to the trappers on a basis of price lists which they send out. Some houses send out from 500,000 to 1,000,000 price lists at a time to as many trappers located in North America.

As the shipments are received they are sent to a special room, where different shipments from the same sections are assembled, sorted, and graded. Sorting and grading being intricate and responsible, requires men with great skill and long experience. From the sorting and grading rooms the furs are sent to the "exchange" floor and are bid in by dealers who have headquarters or branches in St. Louis. There are about 25 of these dealers, representing other dealers and manufacturers all over the world, especially London and Leipzig.

All the surplus not used in this country is sold abroad, and in normal times there has been a good demand for American furs all over the world.¹ Of course, fashion regulates from time to time the

¹ Exports of furs from the United States have been remarkably affected by the European war, raw furs greatly declining, while some increase is recorded in manufactured furs, as will be seen by the following statistics for fiscal years ended June 30:

Furs and fur skins.	1913	1914	1915
Raw and unmanufactured:			
Sealskins	\$188,700	\$37,199	\$405
All other	17,276,283	14,061,348	2,540,519
Dressed, and manufactures of	924,443	870,824	1,258,686
Total	18,389,586	14,969,371	3,794,489

demand for any particular kind of fur, and prices fluctuate according to fashion and supply and demand. London being the leading fur market has naturally been purchasing more American furs than any other foreign market, but the demand for American furs in Leipzig in recent years was increasing, and many of the Leipzig dealers purchased direct from St. Louis receiving houses instead of going to the London sales. It is probable that the demand for American furs in Germany will increase still further after the close of hostilities. Russia has already commenced to ship furs to St. Louis.

The war had a depressing effect on the fur trade all over the world, but business has reacted in America considerably because of certain kinds of furs coming more into fashion, and also due to the fact that the low prices prevailing last winter caused a very light catch and a depleted supply. When the demand came there was hardly enough of certain kinds of fashionable furs to supply it. The prospects for the coming season are much better than they were last year.

Owing to the specialized character of the fur trade in St. Louis, it is not possible to obtain statistics showing the volume of business, but it is estimated that the value of raw furs received in this market in normal years approximates \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000.

COAL DISCOVERY ON ISLAND OF BORNHOLM.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sweden, Sept. 8.]

It has just been reported that coal in some quantities has been discovered on the island of Bornholm, which is not far from the coast of southern Sweden, but which is a possession of Denmark. It is probable that the presence of coal on this island has been known for some time, but its commercial exploitation has been retarded by the competition of other European fields. Because of the war this competition has for the time being lost its force, and two Danish geologists and a Swedish mineral surveyor have proceeded to Bornholm to look into the possibilities of the new field, with special reference to marketing the fuel should it prove suitable for railway and industrial use. The deposits are said to be a short distance from Ronne, the chief town of the island.

OIL PROSPECTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Consul Thomas D. Bowman, Fernie, British Columbia, Canada, Oct. 5.]

The outlook for an abundant supply of oil in the Flathead Valley, just over the Montana State line in the extreme southeastern corner of the Fernie consular district, is said to be bright. While the company that is working this field does not claim to have struck pay oil as yet, it is announced that oil sands have been struck at 800 feet. Drilling was begun July 20 and the first signs of oil were encountered September 20. Two standard drilling plants are in operation.

Little interest is manifested locally in this oil prospect. It has been explained that this district was widely exploited by "wildcat" speculation schemes within very recent memory, and that confidence in oil investments was rudely shaken.

NEW DATA ON JAPANESE COTTON INDUSTRY.

A 13 per cent increase in the production and one of 22 per cent in the exports of cotton yarn marked the activities of the Japanese cotton spinning and weaving mills in 1914, according to reports from an American consul, despite the unsettled conditions in the world markets that affected industry and trade everywhere during the last six months of the year. Piece goods, however, remained practically stationary as to the total value of exports, although radical changes occurred in the shipments to China and Kwangtung—to China, 27,042,188 yen worth against 19,874,882 yen in 1913; to Kwangtung, 3,408,548 yen against 9,260,554 yen. At the close of 1914 the industry boasted 369,910 more spinning spindles, 19,094 more twisting spindles, and 1,660 more looms than it had a year and a half previous.

These are among the interesting facts disclosed by the additional statistical data on the Japanese cotton industry that has recently been obtained by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and embodied in a 12-page booklet, "Japanese Cotton Goods Industry and Trade," Special Consular Reports No. 74. While primarily issued as a supplement to an earlier publication of the Bureau ("Cotton Goods in Japan," Special Agents Series No. 86—a 282-page monograph that reviews the history of the Japanese cotton industry from the establishment of the first spinning mill), the tables presented in the new booklet are worthy of study in themselves. Copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the various branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; price, 5 cents.

POSITIONS FILLED BY BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.

Applications for employment received by the Bureau of Immigration of the Department of Labor at the various branches and sub-branches throughout the country numbered 17,827 during the month of August. Of these applicants 7,321 were referred to employment and 6,757 were actually employed. During the same month the number of applications for help received was 1,279, and the number of positions offered to be filled was 7,931. The subbranch at Moscow, Idaho, makes the unusual record of having had 32 applications for help, with 32 positions offered, 32 applications for employment, 32 referred to employment, and 32 actually employed. Among the larger offices Chicago had the distinction of having 2,860 persons accepted out of 2,868 who were referred for employment, while 157 in Baltimore, 55 in Minneapolis, 40 in Kansas City, Mo., and 11 in St. Louis, who were referred to employment, were all actually employed.

AUTOMOBILES IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Sept. 18.]

The *Eco de Aduanas*, published in Madrid, states this day that the total number of private automobiles registered in Spain on January 1, 1915, was 10,548. The Province of Madrid led with 2,405 registrations. The population of Spain is about 20,000,000.

ESTABLISHING A PACIFIC SALMON ON ATLANTIC COAST.

Numerous reports have been received by the United States Bureau of Fisheries, confirming early indications that a run of humpback salmon has been established on the coast of Maine. The fish that have been observed are the first results of plants made in February, 1914. The humpback salmon is a rapid grower, and attains full maturity in two years. For this reason and because of its high value as a food fish when taken in salt water or when fresh run from the sea the bureau selected this species for introduction into selected New England streams.

Many fish weighing 5 to 7½ pounds have been taken or seen in Penobscot River, Me., and 20 were captured alive by agents of the bureau near Bangor and held in an effort to obtain ripe eggs. From two of these fish 3,000 eggs were taken on September 6 and, after fertilization, sent to the Craig Brook hatchery for incubation.

Accounts of the appearance of this new fish in various minor rivers have come in, and in the Dennys River there was a noteworthy run, which began as early as August 15 and was continuing as late as September 24. The local fishermen caught and ate large numbers, and during the week of September 20 an employee of the Green Lake hatchery took 15 fish (8 males and 7 females) which had passed through the fishways in dams in Dennys River and were dropping downstream in a spent condition; at the same time both live and dead fish were observed below the dams.

[An account of the steps taken and plans made by the Bureau of Fisheries, with the object of introducing humpback salmon on the coast of Maine, was given in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 25, 1915.]

MARKET FOR COAL IN PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 16.]

Prices of coal in Portugal, already double what they were before the war, are gradually increasing, and the supply of fuel on hand is very small. The latest quotations for Welsh coal are \$10.20 to \$10.70 and \$11.90 to \$12.90 c. i. f. Lisbon. Lower qualities bring \$9.25 to \$9.50. The English freight rate is also advancing and is now \$4.15 to \$4.85 a ton.

Local dealers generally admit that America could supply this market if freights from the United States were around \$4.85 to \$6.10 per ton. Some cargoes of Pocahontas coal have arrived here recently and are giving satisfaction, but on account of the high freight it is difficult for this fuel to compete in price with the Cardiff coal generally used in Portugal.

INDUSTRIAL COLLEGES FOR CHINA.

[National Review of China, Sept. 4]

At a recent conference in the State Department at Peking, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce proposed that in order to develop native industry, four industrial colleges should be established. The minister suggested that of these four colleges, a mining college in Manchuria, an agricultural and a forestry college in Peking be established, and the other two colleges should be for fishery and engineering in Hupeh and Shanghai, respectively.

WAR'S EFFECT ON SOUTH CHINA TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 24.]

All things considered, it is doubtful if the effect of the first year of the war in Europe upon the trade of the Far East has been as marked as has been anticipated. The effect upon the trade of South China has been considerable, but it has been along general lines and as a result of general conditions rather than a marked change from one line of purchase and supply to another.

Buying Power Restricted.

As stated in previous reports from this consulate general, the chief effect of the war upon the business of China (aside from the results of the liquidation of German firms in Hongkong and the prohibition of "trading with the enemy," which has broken up the combination of British manufacturers and German selling agencies) has been shutting off European markets for Chinese products, with the result that prices for such products fell to a point where production was not profitable, even where the goods could be sold at all. Without the sale of its products abroad China can not buy for import. The effect of the war upon silver exchange, moreover, has made all foreign goods very expensive in terms of silver. The value of silver most of the time since the beginning of the war has been such as to stimulate exports under normal conditions while holding back imports. With exports impossible because of the war, imports were held back for both financial and economical reasons. Under the circumstances it is rather remarkable that Chinese trade has held up as strongly under adverse conditions as it has, and whatever tendency to revival is all the more important.

Liquidation of Stocks.

Nevertheless, the consumption of foreign goods in South China, though much below normal in volume, has proceeded much along usual lines, so far as the nationality of supplies is concerned, and changes in the course of trade have been coming slowly, though steadily and surely in a number of lines. While trade from central Europe was shut off by the war, there were large stocks of goods therefrom in Eastern ports, which have been on the market ever since, and the consumption of all such goods has been supplied more or less freely since the beginning of the war by drafts upon these stocks, even where trade was entirely controlled by other nationals, as in Hongkong. It was necessary that the sale of these stocks of goods should proceed along normal lines, so far as was possible, both to protect British and allied banking interests against loss from advances on such goods, and also to prevent the demoralization of the market for the sale of similar British goods. In most lines of staple trade, therefore, the year's business has been largely one of liquidation of current stocks.

This has been the case particularly of cotton piece goods. Stocks of all such goods in South China and most other Chinese ports have been large for several years. The outbreak of war, and especially the forced liquidation of German firms in Hongkong, made it necessary to dispose of these stocks instead of buying new goods. Nevertheless, stocks have been so far depleted during the year that the

buying of new goods in fair volume is now in sight, and with this comes a realization that in many lines American manufacturers are in a position to compete.

Prices Sought on American Textiles.

A careful study of the cotton piece goods situation in Hongkong by experts has convinced a good many buyers that the United States offers the best first-hand market for them at present, and inquiries for American prices are becoming more numerous and much more earnest. This is especially the case in plain gray shirtings and sheetings, in which central Europe had a good share of trade before the war. There is a marked demand for cotton blankets, cotton flannels, and other goods which formerly came largely from the continent of Europe, but demand for American goods also is coming to include a number of fabrics which heretofore have been obtained almost exclusively from Europe but in which experts believe American manufacturers can now successfully compete.

Metal Goods.

The trade in metals has shown as much of a change as any other line. In structural steel it has been found that conditions in Great Britain are such as to make prices high and deliveries very uncertain, while the trade from Belgium has entirely disappeared. Orders for American steel have been given as freely as general trade conditions have warranted. Indeed, this has been the case in all lines of iron and steel, including sheets and plates (galvanized and otherwise), wire and wire shorts, cobbles, nail rod, bars, hoops, and all standard forms. Prices in the United States have been firm and prices to consumers here have been particularly high because of the high freight rates prevailing on goods from America, but with all that prices have usually been below European prices and deliveries could safely be promised, which has not been the case with European goods.

Demand on American manufacturers for all lines of iron and steel will doubtless be much heavier in the near future, for not only is it increasingly difficult to secure supplies from Europe but stocks in the Far East are now very low and on the other hand connections in the United States for the purchase of all such goods have been established and the trade machinery now exists for satisfactory business.

In nearly all lines of machinery, especially in electrical goods and similar products, conditions have followed those obtaining in the iron and steel trade. As a result of general business depression in South China there has been less demand for electrical and similar machinery than normally would have been the case, but what demand has existed has reached to the United States in an unusual degree for its supplies.

Trade in this line is likely to go more and more to the United States in the immediate future not only because, as above indicated, American connections have now been established and prices in Europe are high, but also because under present conditions of international finance American financing of such trade is more favorable than usual. In electrical lines there has been a falling off in trade due to an end to special German financing of electrical power and light projects; however, of the normal trade in Hongkong the de-

mand for American goods has very greatly increased. European competition with American machines in sewing and knitting machinery has been cut off with very favorable results on American trade.

Machinery, Dyestuffs, Glass, Hardware, Etc.

What business there has been in the purchase of boilers, turbines, and similar machinery supplies abroad has been going to the United States with every indication that this will continue to be the case.

American manufacturers have secured a hold on trade in Hongkong and South China in many lines of goods which have never before been obtained from the United States. The sale of artificial dyes of American make has successfully been inaugurated in Hongkong. In nearly all lines of chemical products the United States is now being called upon for supplies, in many instances as the sole source of supply at the present time. American window glass and American glassware are now sold in Hongkong in increasing quantities. American hardware is increasing in popularity, supplanting the cheaper grade of European goods almost entirely and competing successfully with the more solid English manufactures. In nearly all lines of department-store goods American manufacturers are now enjoying an increasing trade. American soap, various toilet supplies, perfumeries, and the like are used in increasing quantities; in some lines constituting practically the whole of the trade. In many of these lines of trade American manufacturers had a share before the outbreak of the war. Since the war they have had practically all the trade there was to be had. In nearly all these lines of trade consumption is below normal both by reason of general trade conditions, the low value of silver, the reduction in foreign population, and the general business uncertainty; but American trade has increased, and with the return of normal times American manufacturers will have increasing opportunities of trade.

Constant Applications for American Connections.

With the consumption of current stocks of many lines of notions, such as needles and pins, buttons, tape, ribbons, hairpins, and similar goods, and of all such goods as lamps, stoves, enameled ware, electroplate, watches and clocks, scientific instruments, paper and stationery, in short, in nearly all lines of normal trade, will come an increased demand for American goods. In nearly all such lines of trade Hongkong and South China dealers have been seeking and establishing American connections as preparation for trade soon to be realized. Constant applications for American connections in new lines are made to or through this consulate general all the time. The number of such connections established in South China since the outbreak of the war is very large and embraces practically all lines of trade. It may probably be considered the most important development in the South China trade situation since the beginning of the war.

The great question in all this change is as to what portion of this new and somewhat special trade can be held after the end of the war in Europe and the establishment of normal trade conditions generally. Much may be said and written on this phase of present-day business, but little can be actually established. Most American manufacturers have gone after the trade here with a view of holding it

after the end of the war. They are careful to cultivate satisfactory relations in every way, they hold to normal prices so far as may be possible, they are meeting customs of the trade here as to credits and deliveries so far as may be possible, and in short they are showing that they want the business on a permanent basis and mean to try and keep it.

Getting Acquainted—American Buying Opportunity.

The chief result of the war, so far as permanent business is concerned, will be to give consumers here an opportunity to become acquainted with and to test American goods in comparison with those they have been accustomed to use and to give American manufacturers an insight into the special needs of trade in the Far East, the kind of goods required for the Far Eastern market, customs and peculiarities of the trade, and the general establishing of direct trade connections and agencies. These are advantages they have never had before and are all but controlling in their nature. With such advantages trade after the war will largely be a matter of quality and price. In some lines of goods now coming to the East, American manufacturers doubtless can and will compete with European manufacturers who have heretofore been able to hold the trade for themselves. Beyond that the results of changes so far effected by the war in Europe remain to be seen.

On the whole, it is doubtful if American manufacturers have taken advantage of special opportunities they have had for the purchase of cheap raw materials in China during the past year to the extent they might profitably have done. Declared exports from Hongkong and Chinese ports show decreased trade on the whole, which doubtless reflects depression in certain lines of trade in the United States rather than the course of the market for raw materials here. American imports of silk have held up well, all things considered. Imports of vegetable oils have been small, considering prices here and in the United States. The shipments of hides and skins from China to the United States have been much less than were anticipated with the change of the American tariff law and changed conditions here. In most lines of Chinese exports to the United States inadequate freight facilities and high freight rates have had a deterrent influence.

The Competitive Factor.

Of competing nations concerned in Chinese trade, Japan unquestionably has been the most successful in its efforts to secure trade formerly supplied by the belligerent nations of Europe. The Japanese Government, all Japanese trade organizations, Japanese manufacturers individually and by organizations in their respective lines of business have systematically and persistently struggled for this trade and are continuing their campaign. They have been especially successful in some lines of the cotton trade, such as heavy piece goods, towels, cotton blankets, and ladies' hosiery; in some branches of electrical machinery and supplies; in soap, toys, paper, glass, and glassware; enameled ware; and many miscellaneous goods. Great Britain has held its own in most cotton piece goods in South China and has gained some trade in electrical machinery and supplies and in general heavy machinery.

German trade has been almost entirely destroyed, but not much of it comparatively is being supplied from other sources. This is

merely an illustration of a fact to which attention has been called heretofore in these reports, namely, that trade in China is not as competitive as it often has been made to appear, and that each nation has its own particular trade in certain lines which it is difficult for other nations to serve because of the special advantages held by the original nation in that particular line of manufacture.

Nevertheless of nations hurt most in its oriental trade by the war Germany easily leads; of nations helped in their trade with China by the war Japan easily leads. Gains made by the United States have been due much more to the position of the country as the only great trading nation remaining neutral than to any special activity on the part of American business men.

PARAGUAYAN WOODS CONTAINING TANNIN.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Aug. 25.]

In view of the present high price of tannin extracts, it is probable that there will be an exploitation of woods containing high percentages of tannin fluids. At the present time there is considerable activity in the quebracho-extract industry in Paraguay. Quebracho is well known, and the forests containing the quebracho wood are being developed with considerable thoroughness. There are, however, other woods in Paraguay, practically unknown to the outside world, containing high percentages of tannin, which are found in abundance.

The following are the names, native and scientific, of the most important woods, from the standpoint of tannin contents, which are found here in abundance, with a short description of each variety:

Yhvá-porofitih (*Eugenia brasiliensis*). This wood contains about 35.4 per cent of tannin in the adult bark, also about 12 per cent in the dried leaves, and about 7.6 per cent in the wood of the trunk of the tree. This is the only tree found here so far containing tannin in the leaves and trunk. It contains little resinous or coloring material. It grows to a height of 15 to 30 feet, with a diameter of 1 to 1½ feet, and has abundant foliage. Is found in abundance and in various places is found in groves.

Pakuri (*Rheedia brasiliensis*). Contains in the bark about 18 per cent of tannin, with a small percentage of resinous and coloring substances. Grows to a height of 35 to 45 feet, but is of small diameter. Bark easy of extraction; color pale red. Is found in quantity in the forests.

Yhivihrá-Puihtá (*Peltophorum dubium*). Contains about 24 per cent of tannin and considerable coloring material. The tree is commonly exploited for its wood, as it often grows to very considerable size. Is very abundant.

Nangapirih-Guazú (*Eugenia Michellii*). Contains about 20 per cent of tannin. Tree grows to height of about 15 to 20 feet, and is small in diameter. Found in quantity in lowlands, on river banks, etc. The bark is smooth and easy to extract.

Kurupalih-Rá Moróto (*Piptademia* Sp.). Contains about 20 per cent of tannin. Is found in abundance and is at present exploited for its wood only.

Kurupalih-Rá Puihtá (*Piptademia rigida*). Contains about 20 per cent of tannin. The tree grows to considerable size; bark is woody. Found in considerable quantity and is at present worked for its wood.

Ingá Guazú (*Inga affinis*). Contains about 17 per cent of tannin in bark. Bark smooth and easily extracted. Is found in quantity along the rivers and smaller streams and grows to considerable size.

Kaatiguá Moróti (*Trichilia hieronymi*). Contains about 15 per cent of tannin in the bark. Tree does not grow to large size. The bark is used by natives to some extent in tanning, and is easily stripped from the logs.

Timbó (*Enterolobium timbauva*). Contains about 14 per cent of tannin. The bark is thick and the tree grows to a very large size. This bark is used to some extent by the natives in tanning fine hides. Is found fairly abundantly.

DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Aug. 30.]

The Russian Ministry of Agriculture has just issued a publication entitled *Agriculture in Russia* which describes the development of agricultural concerns during the period 1895-1913. The rapid progress of agricultural concerns during recent years, the general revival of agricultural work, and the increased interest in agriculture on the part of all classes make this publication of special interest.

During the period 1895-1915 the annual sums expended by the Ministry of Agriculture for the promotion of agriculture increased from \$1,000,000 to \$15,000,000 per annum. The expenses for the decade 1903-1912 amounted to about \$40,000,000 and considerably exceeded the aggregate for the previous 60 years. The sum expended during the last three years exceeded that spent during the decade 1903-1912.

The expenses of the zemstvo organizations for the requirements of agriculture during the period 1895-1913 increased from \$500,000 to \$8,000,000. In 1913 the Ministry of Agriculture and the zemstvo together disposed of \$23,000,000 for the development of agriculture. The number of agricultural educational institutions increased from 82 in 1895 to 360 in 1913 and the number of students from 4,000 in 1895 to 18,000 in 1913. The zemstvo, which employed 134 agents in 1895, now has a staff of 3,216 persons. In 1895 there were established 27 testing stations; in 1914 the number had reached 250. There is noted a particularly rapid growth of agricultural cooperation all over the Empire of Russia which, together with the zemstvo, is active in promoting the development of agriculture. The number of agricultural associations has increased from 175 in 1895 to 4,134 in 1913 and to 4,685 in 1914.

VESSELS BUILT IN UNITED STATES.

The Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, reports 316 sailing, steam, and unrigged vessels of 46,276 gross tons built in the United States and officially numbered during the three months ended September 30, 1915, and 283 sailing, steam, and unrigged vessels of 56,510 gross tons for the corresponding period of 1914. Those built during the 1915 period were as follows:

Kind.	Atlantic and gulf.		Porto Rico.		Pacific.		Hawaii.		Great Lakes.		Western rivers.		Total.	
	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.
Wood:														
Sailing ...	14	4,038	1	7	52	2,161	1	19	29	546	22	897	15	4,045
Steam ...	92	2,200			19	1,114			6	654	12	161	196	5,323
Unrigged.	41	9,551											78	11,480
Total...	147	15,789	1	7	71	3,275	1	19	35	1,200	34	558	280	20,848
Metal:														
Sailing ...	10	15,853			1	222			6	7,513	5	147	22	23,745
Steam ...	8	1,046									2	37	5	1,683
Unrigged.														
Total...	18	17,600			1	222			6	7,513	7	184	27	25,428

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **branch offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the **file number** given.

Tinned steel wire, No. 18782.—A dealer in Northern Africa informs an American consular officer that he desires to purchase about 6,000 pounds of tinned steel wire suitable for use in the manufacture of mattresses. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination or f. o. b. New York. Correspondence in French is preferred, but it may be in English. A sample of the wire desired may be examined at the Bureau or at its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 66809.)

Steel screws, No. 18783.—An American consular officer in Ireland reports that a business man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of steel screws. Reference is given.

Women's wearing apparel, No. 18784.—A manufacturer's agent in Ireland has informed an American consular officer that he desires to establish business relations with American manufacturers or exporters of women's fleeced underwear. The names of other buyers of fleeced goods are also given.

Rasps and files, No. 18785.—An American consular officer in Canada reports the desire of a firm in his district to establish business relations with American manufacturers or exporters of rasps and files.

Cotton mill, gin stores, chemicals, etc., No. 18786.—A firm in India has informed an American consular officer that it desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of cotton mill and gin stores, chemicals, and sizing materials.

Wire, No. 18787.—The Bureau has received a report from an American consular officer in Canada stating that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of annunciator wire such as is used in connection with electric bells. The size required is No. 18. It is stated that orders of 500 pounds would be placed.

Cement, No. 18788.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a business man in his district desires to receive full information relative to Portland cement.

Electrical household appliances, No. 18789.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in England reports that a business man desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of electrical household appliances, such as electrical irons.

Medicines and medical supplies, No. 18790.—A druggist in Russia has informed an American consular officer that he desires to receive catalogues and price lists from American manufacturers or exporters of medicines and medical supplies. Correspondence should be in Russian or French.

Parchment paper, No. 18791.—A manufacturers' agent in Ireland has informed an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of parchment paper. Quotations should be on trial sized lots, including freight to port in the United Kingdom.

Construction and operation of railway, No. 18792.—An American consular officer in England, quoting an announcement published in European journals, reports that tenders will be opened at the "Direccion-General de Obras Publicas," Madrid, on November 10, for the construction and working for a period of 99 years of a strategic railway from Ferrol to Gijon. The cost of construction is estimated at about \$17,164,145, on which interest, *not*, exceeding 5 per cent per annum, will be guaranteed by the State. The minimum rolling stock required to work the line will be 30 locomotives, 102 passenger coaches, 15 brake vans, 300 goods wagons, and 15 trucks. An option on the concession is held by the "Sociedad Iberia." Construction work must be begun within three months from the date of the award of the concession, and completed within a period of eight years. It is stated that although the foregoing contract may be awarded to a Spanish firm, the carrying out of the work may involve the purchase of material outside of Spain. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Leather sewing machines, No. 18793.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a manufacturer and dealer in shoe machinery and supplies desires to learn the names of American manufacturers of three-needle leather sewing machines. Correspondence should be in German or French.

Hides and skins, No. 18794.—A firm of importers and exporters in Brazil has informed an American consular officer that it desires to communicate with American importers of wet salted hides and skins.

Celluloid, No. 18795.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a manufacturer in his district desires to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers of celluloid in sheets. The shades desired are light dark and mottled tortoise shell, imitation ivory, and mother-of-pearl. Thicknesses per sheet in millimeters, 2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.8, 3, 3.3, 3.5, 3.8, 4, 4.5, and 5. About 40,000 are needed annually. Samples, with quotations c. i. f. French port, are desired. Customary American terms and conditions will be accepted. Reference is given. Correspondence should be in German or French.

Power vessel, No. 18796.—An American consular officer in Peru states that a firm in his district desires to purchase immediately a vessel, new or second-hand, meeting the following requirements: Steam or motor; two masts; capable of carrying 150 tons of freight; draft not more than 8 feet; wide beam; engine in stern; deck houses either in stern or bow; must possess full equipment of boats, etc., and should not make less than 8 miles per hour. Correspondence should be in Spanish or Italian, and weights and measures in metric system. Full description and photograph of vessel should be sent immediately.

Harmonium reeds, No. 18797.—A firm in England has informed an American consular officer that it desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of brass harmonium reeds. The firm states that it requires 1,200 sets, each set containing 37 notes, C to C, and 10,000 sets of 3 octaves, C to C toned.

Wax, nails, etc., No. 18798.—A firm in New Zealand has informed an American consular officer that it desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of sulphide of sodium (pieces of about one-fourth inch in diameter); plain and corrugated galvanized sheet iron; ceresin wax, carnauba wax, and other waxes used by makers of polishes; vegetable parchment paper, cut to 20 inches by 30 inches; dyes; nails; diamond, rose, and flat-head wire nails; plain and barbed fencing wire, all gauges and staples; sheet glass and glassware, especially tumblers and beer bottles; basic slag, packed in bags not to exceed 200 pounds in weight; enamel and aluminum kitchen utensils; and sawn and bulk pine and redwood timber. The firm states that it will do business on the basis of cash against documents in New Zealand, but prefers 30 days' acceptance. Catalogues, prices, samples, etc., should be sent immediately.

Plant for utilization of waste material, No. 18799.—The Bureau is in receipt of a report from an American consular officer in Costa Rica stating that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of apparatuses as used in plants for the manufacture of animal charcoal and oil.

Destructor plant, No. 18800.—An American consular officer in England, quoting from an English journal, states that the British Trade Commissioner for Australia reports that tenders are invited by the Hawthorn, Malvern, Camberwell, and Kew Destructor Trust for the supply, delivery, and erection in Hawthorn, Victoria, of a complete destructor plant. Copies of the specifications, conditions of contract, and form of tender, together with plans of the site, may be obtained from the offices of the trust, Town Hall, Hawthorn, Victoria, at which address also sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to November 30. A cash deposit equal to 1 per cent of the value of the offer, or a marked check, must accompany each tender. Local representation is necessary. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

SUCCESS OF GERMAN ELECTRIC COMPANY IN SPAIN.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 11.]

Information has just been published of the successful year's work of the Compañía Sevillana de Electricidad, of Seville, the receipts during 1914 having been 2,267,436 pesetas (peseta=\$0.193) against 2,077,110 in the preceding year. The net profits for 1914 were 980,336 pesetas against 886,660 pesetas in 1913, and of the former amount 47,968 pesetas was added to the reserve, 384,000 pesetas paid in dividends, and 350,000 pesetas set aside for amortization of bonds.

Since 1911 the company has paid dividends of 8 per cent annually, established a reserve of 405,480 pesetas, paid 3,348,020 pesetas for amortization of bonds, and now has a capital of 12,800,000 pesetas. The company manufactures its own electricity in Seville, and has also made arrangements with the hydroelectric company which takes its power from the Guadiaro to have the exclusive right to sell its power in this city.

A competing electric company, called Catalana de Gas y Electricidad, S. A., started business during 1914, and is also having some considerable success, but this does not appear to have materially affected the receipts of the older German company. The new company is financed by Spanish and British interests.

INCREASED OIL PRODUCTION IN ROUMANIA.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, American Embassy, Paris, Sept. 11.]

It is reported from Bucharest that the total production of petroleum in Roumania during the first half of 1915 amounted to 906,472 tons, as compared with 878,516 tons for the first half of 1914. Of the total for the first half of 1915, the district of Prahova contributed 87.79 per cent, Dombrova 5.77 per cent, and Buzare 4.83 per cent.

[Statements regarding Roumanian oil production were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 23 and July 7, 1915.]

BANANAS GIVE WAY TO SUGAR.

[Vice Consul Edward L. Lowe, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Sept. 25.]

During the early part of the present month the plantation company operating a banana plantation at Sosua, Puerto Plata, suspended business entirely and discharged all employees. Resumption of operations does not appear probable. The last shipment of bananas was made on July 31, 1915. It is said that machinery for making sugar will soon be erected on the same plantation. The closing down of this plantation has been very much felt, as several hundred laborers are now without work.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, 752 Oliver Building; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

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SPANISH VESSEL LAUNCHED.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 7.]

The *Santa Isabel*, the first of the 10 steamers that are being built for the Compania Transatlantica by the Sociedad Espanola de Construcciones Navales de Cadiz [see Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Dec. 8, 1914], was launched at Cadiz a few days ago and will soon be put in service on the run from Spain to Fernando Po. It is constructed of steel, with twin screws and turbine engines, and will make 12 to 14 knots an hour. Accommodations for first and second class passengers are provided, as well as space for emigrants. The vessel's equipment is thoroughly modern throughout.

Immediately the *Santa Isabel* was launched the keel for the succeeding vessel (which is to be called the *San Carlos*) was laid down.

GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT AT MAINE FISH FAIR.

In connection with the fish fair to be held at Eastport, Me., on October 22 and 23, arrangements have been made for a display of some characteristic charts and other publications of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and also a selection of publications of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the Steamboat-Inspection Service, the Bureau of Lighthouses, the Bureau of Navigation, and the Division of Publications. Mr. E. B. Latham, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, will have charge of this exhibit.

CONTRACT FOR MATERIAL AT NAVASSA LIGHT STATION.

A contract for furnishing the metal work and lantern glass for Navassa Island Light Station, West Indies, in the sum of \$12,078, has been awarded by the Secretary of Commerce to the Champion Iron Co., Kenton, Ohio. The contract calls for the completion of the work within eight months from October 14, 1915.

COMMERCE OF TSINGTAU DURING FIRST HALF YEAR.

[Consul Willys R. Peck, Tsingtau, China, Sept. 6.]

The normal trade passing through Tsingtau may be said to have stopped on August 1, 1914. On November 7, 1914, the port was captured by the Japanese forces, and on December 28, 1914, it was again opened to trade. Japanese steamship connection with Japanese, Chinese, and Korean ports was resumed at once, and with greater tonnage than before the war. While only 264 Japanese vessels entered and cleared from Tsingtau during the first half of 1914, during the first quarter of 1915 alone there were 284 and during the second quarter 237. Ships of other nationalities were not permitted to enter the port, except those of Great Britain, and the latter were limited to one vessel per week, 41 arrivals and clearances being recorded by the harbor authorities during the half year, in place of 246 during the first half of 1914. The tonnage of all nationalities for the half year was 48 per cent of that for the corresponding period of 1914.

The Shantung Railway—Shipping.

The necessary complement of steamships in the commerce of the port, the Shantung Railway, was in bad shape when the Japanese took it over, having been seriously damaged by floods and other causes. During the first three months it was run by the army, although undertaking freight and passenger traffic after a fashion. On April 1 a civilian staff took charge, and during the second quarter it can not be considered to have interposed any considerable obstacle to trade with the interior.

The ordinary facilities of commerce were therefore available during the period in question. The activities of German firms ceased by reason of the war, and European competition was limited, practically speaking, to three British firms.

In comparisons with preceding years 1914 has had to be disregarded owing to incomplete customs returns. By "preceding average" and similar terms, therefore, reference is herein made to the years 1910-1913.

With shipping registering a tonnage not quite one-half that recorded during the corresponding period of last year, it is easy to believe that steamship companies suffered loss in operation, imports being only 17 per cent and 34 per cent of previous averages in the first and second quarters, respectively, and exports 12 per cent and 15 per cent. The loss was partially made up by passenger traffic—an influx of 12,000 Japanese in the first three months being estimated, with consequent comings and goings—and by Government patronage and subsidy. Because of the abundance of tonnage for requirements, there was, so far as known, no strenuous objection on the part of shipowners to the shipping restrictions already referred to.

Exports and Imports.

The following table indicates what percentages of previous averages were attained in the exportation of various articles in the first and second quarters of 1915:

Articles.	First quarter.	Second quarter.	Articles.	First quarter.	Second quarter.
	<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>		<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
Salt.....		222	Straw braid.....	5	72
Bean oil.....	11		Bean cake.....		13
Cattle.....	3	11	Beef.....		4
Cotton.....	41	96	Bristles.....		33
Hides.....	61	40	Cereals.....		121,671
Eggs (fresh).....		33	Bones.....		155
Peanuts:			Coal.....		3
Shelled.....	3	51	Tallow.....		35
Unshelled.....	3	58	Wool.....		984
Peanut oil.....	3	28	Walnuts.....		
Pongee.....	3				

NOTE.—The lack of certain statistics during the first quarter is partly due to the fact that the customs did not keep separate records of some articles during that quarter.

Several of the items listed above attract special attention. The increased exportation of salt was due to the dumping on the market of large accumulations that had come into the custody of the Japanese military authorities and were sold by auction as perishable cargo. The increase in the exportation of cereals appears fabulous, but is readily explained by the fact that the exportation of "rice and other grain" is prohibited by Chinese laws and foreign treaties.

The majority of the articles enumerated made up the bulk of the declared exports to the United States from this port in past years, the total of such declared exports in 1913 amounting to \$996,126 and in 1914 to \$761,799. In the present year there have been less than half a dozen invoices presented to the consulate.

The following table indicates what percentages of previous averages were attained in the importation of various articles in the first and second quarters of 1915:

Articles.	First quarter.	Second quarter.	Articles.	First quarter.	Second quarter.
	<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>		<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
Cotton cloth.....		84	Kerosene.....	16	2
Cotton yarn.....	34	89	Dyes, paints, etc.....		50
Cotton thread.....		67	Matches.....	28	67
Flour:			Paper.....	71	42
Foreign.....	19	174	Sugar.....	23	24
Native.....		33	Timber.....	41	
Coal.....		538	Tobacco (cigarettes, etc.).....	161	

It is not to be understood that the two tables given above include all the exported and imported articles. On the other hand, one-quarter of the imports in the first quarter are grouped in the customs returns under the heading "unclassified" or similarly, which fact, combined with inaccuracy in the returns, makes accurate deductions impossible.

The Trade of Japan.

It is interesting to note, however, that in 1913 the average quarterly direct import from Japan was valued at \$1,515,845, or only 14 per cent less than the total import trade, native and foreign, during the second quarter of the present year. With only three European firms operating in Tsingtau and all but an insignificant portion of the steamship lines Japanese, the great bulk of the imports have likewise been Japanese, and it will be seen that this trade has almost reached

its former proportions. That Japanese imports have not expanded so as to absorb the portions formerly American and European is due to a variety of causes—partly to the unsettled conditions in Tsingtau arising from the war last autumn, and partly to the short length of time most of the Japanese firms have been located here, but more especially to the political negotiations carried on between China and Japan in the spring. According to a statement made by the Peking correspondent of the London Times, Japan's export trade to the whole of China decreased 33 per cent, or about \$15,000,000, in the first six months of 1915.

The customs administration under the military administration has paid special attention to articles of Japanese origin, and the articles enumerated in the two tables given come for the most part under that category. In the first quarter a large importation of tobacco, cigarettes, etc., is to be seen. The rivalry that has existed for some years with special strength in Manchuria has now begun in Shantung between the goods of the British-American Tobacco Co. and those of the Toa Co., and the streets of Tsingtau are enlivened by numbers of small boys clad in the rival uniforms crying their respective wares.

Opportunity for Americans.

It will be noticed that no one article of those listed among the imports fell to so low a percentage in either quarter as did the total import trade—that is, 17 per cent and 34 per cent of previous averages in the respective quarters. There are only two exceptions to this statement: Kerosene, in which Japan does not play an important part, and sugar, in which, likewise, she has hitherto played a subordinate rôle. It is evident that the great decrease has occurred in those articles customarily imported from Europe and America, and these fields are open to American exporters. These would include such articles as varieties of cotton goods, metals (especially old iron, for which there is a demand at present), dyes, colors and paints, electrical materials and appliances, flour, window glass, lamps, etc.

Among the three European firms mentioned above there were not included three firms engaged in marketing kerosene, sewing machines, and cigarettes. As there is no American concern in Tsingtau doing a general business, American goods must be marketed by merchants of other nationalities. This is unfortunate, since it leaves untouched something that might be turned into a commercial asset, inconsiderable though it might be—namely, the friendliness and confidence with which Chinese merchants seem predisposed to regard Americans. In China sentiment has been known to transmute itself into a commercial factor of considerable importance. In a recent conversation a prominent Chinese merchant inquired of the writer why no American concern doing a general import and export business was located in Tsingtau, and expressed the hope that one might come. In this connection it is pertinent to remark that in 1913 Tsingtau ranked sixth among the 48 ports of China in respect to total volume of trade, its entire trade in that year amounting to \$43,193,282.

Six merchant ships, aggregating 20,000 tons, were launched on the Clyde during September, the nine months' total reaching 190,000 tons.

ORDERS TO SHIPMASTERS TO COVER HATCHES.

The executive committee of the Board of Supervising Inspectors, Steamboat-Inspection Service, at a meeting held on October 9, 1915, amended the general rules and regulations, ocean and coastwise, and for lakes, bays, and sounds, relative to the covering of hatches. The amendments were approved by the Secretary of Commerce on October 12, 1915, and now have the force of law. The rule for ocean and coastwise vessels has been amended so as to read as follows:

It shall be the duty of the master of any vessel under the jurisdiction of the Steamboat-Inspection Service to assure himself, before proceeding to sea, that all the cargo hatches of his vessel are properly covered and the covers secured. The covers of all exposed hatches shall be made water-tight by the use of pliable gaskets or by heavy canvas tarpaulins, thoroughly covering the hatch cover and firmly secured by iron or steel bars extending from side to side or end to end of the hatchway, which bars shall be securely fastened by toggles or wedges made of hardwood or by the use of efficient screw fastenings. Failure by the master of any vessel to observe this regulation shall be sufficient cause for suspension or revocation of his license on a charge of inattention to his duty.

The rule for vessels navigating lakes, bays, and sounds has been amended so as to read as follows:

It shall be the duty of the master of any vessel under the jurisdiction of the Steamboat-Inspection Service, and which is carrying cargo, to assure himself before leaving port that all the cargo hatches of his vessel are properly covered and the covers secured. The covers of all exposed cargo hatches shall be made water-tight by the use of pliable gaskets, or by heavy canvas tarpaulins, thoroughly covering the hatch cover and firmly secured by iron or steel bars extending from side to side or end to end of hatchway, which bars shall be fastened by toggles or wedges of hardwood or by the use of efficient screw fastenings. Failure by the master of any vessel to observe this regulation shall be sufficient cause for the suspension or revocation of his license on a charge of inattention to his duty.

CANARY ONIONS AND ONION SEED.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, Canary Islands, Sept. 4.]

The 1915 export season for Canary Island onions and onion seed closed, so far as shipments to the United States are concerned, on August 28, showing a small reduction from last year's figures in the quantities of seed exported. However, a slight increase in prices has made the values approximately the same, so that shippers and growers are well satisfied with the general results. Onions for Porto Rico made a decided gain.

As declared at the Teneriffe consulate, the value of the onion seed exported to the United States in 1915 was \$40,828, against \$43,293 in 1914; to Porto Rico \$973, against \$2,548; or a total of \$41,801, against \$45,841. Onion shipments to Porto Rico (there being none to the United States) were valued at \$13,435, as compared with \$7,963 last year, this gain being sufficient to offset the loss on the seed exports and leave a favorable balance of \$1,432 for the present year.

The question of securing the necessary bottoms for shipments to the United States turned out to be (as was forecast in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 26) the most serious problem of the 1915 crop.

TARIFF INVESTIGATIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

The results of the tariff investigation carried on by the Interstate Commission of Australia in accordance with the request addressed to the commission by the Executive Government under date of September 8, 1913, are embodied in a number of reports covering the various industries investigated. In view of the importance of the Australian market to the American export trade the documents deserve the careful consideration of American manufacturers and exporters interested in the Australian market, as they represent a more or less detailed study of the industrial conditions of the country and reflect the attitude of the Australian manufacturers and labor organizations on the tariff question.

The large number of applications received by the Commission made it necessary to extend the investigation so as to cover practically the entire tariff, although the request from the Government referred only to industries "in urgent need of tariff assistance" and "anomalies in the existing tariff acts." No attempt was made to investigate means for the lessening of the cost of living, another subject included by the Government in its request to the Commission. The investigation of the sugar industry was considered unnecessary on account of the effect of the war on the European sugar industry and the expected shortage of sugar in Australia. The investigation was conducted on the basis of the normal industrial conditions preceding the outbreak of the war.

In the course of its investigation the Commission visited altogether 120 industrial establishments. It is pointed out by the Commission in its general report that while there are found in Australia many industrial establishments managed with a view to efficiency and the comfort of the employees, insufficient attention is given to cost accounting and the methods of foreign competitors. It was also found that in many cases the tariff failed to "stimulate progressive methods and economical management."

Progress of Manufacturing Industries.

The following table, from the chapter in the general report of the Interstate Commission dealing with the industrial progress of Australia during the quinquennial period of 1908-1913, is of interest in connection with the tariff situation in that country. It is pointed out in the report that, in considering the comparative figures for the value of the output, it is necessary to bear in mind the world-wide rise in prices which has taken place during the period under consideration.

	1913	1908	Actual increase 1908-1913.	Percent- age in- crease.
Number of factories.....	15,536	12,853	2,683	20.87
Value of output.....	\$786,235,453	\$484,360,090	\$301,874,083	62.32
Raw materials, wages, fuel, and light.....	\$648,482,854	\$404,011,083	\$244,471,771	60.51
Value of raw material used.....	\$469,166,987	\$296,650,287	\$172,516,700	58.15
Value added by manufacture.....	\$317,038,467	\$187,710,529	\$129,357,505	68.91
Total salaries and wages.....	\$163,544,022	\$96,767,272	\$66,770,750	69.01
Fuel and light.....	\$15,771,845	\$10,493,767	\$5,178,078	48.88
Average wages per employee.....	\$106.80	\$394.13	\$112.67	28.50
Value of land and buildings.....	\$179,441,092	\$129,731,113	\$49,709,979	38.32
Value of plant and machinery.....	\$181,310,486	\$126,177,459	\$55,133,527	43.69
Number of male employees.....	254,107	190,555	63,552	33.35
Number of female employees.....	82,994	66,939	16,055	24.00

Comparison Between Imports and Domestic Production.

In comparing the figures for imports and domestic output for the period of 1908-1913, it is found that the value of the dutiable imports with the duty added has increased 51.2 per cent, the free imports 70.8 per cent, and the output of Australian factories 62.3 per cent. The proportion of duty-paid imports to the value of domestic products has decreased during the same period from 38.2 per cent to 35.6 per cent. It is interesting to note that, in spite of the increase in the tariff in 1911, the average ad valorem rate on dutiable imports shows a decrease from 31.4 per cent in 1908 to 28.9 per cent in 1913, which may be accounted for by an increase in the proportion of imported products dutiable at low rates of duty in the form of raw materials for local industries.

Conflict of Interests and Duties on Raw Materials.

One of the problems confronting the commission is the conflict between the producers of manufactured products, who are primarily interested in a supply of raw materials for their industries, and the domestic producers of such raw materials, who are seeking protection for their products. It is pointed out that "when the finished article of one industry is the necessary raw material of another, the tariff encouragement to both industries may fail to stimulate development in either case," and that "it may at times be found a distinct economic advantage to withdraw tariff encouragement from certain subordinate industries when the effect of such encouragement is proved to be a hindrance rather than an aid to the total of industrial development." It is realized by the commission that the progress of the manufacturing industries of Australia is more or less retarded by the protection extended to raw and partially manufactured materials and machinery not produced and not likely to be produced in Australia on a commercial scale.

Applications for Prohibitive Duties.

In discussing the applications which have been made by some manufacturers for prohibitive import duties, in order to assure to Australian manufacturers complete control of the local market, the commission states as follows:

Witnesses have frequently admitted during the course of examination that, in order to get the local market, they sought the absolute prohibition of importation of all goods likely to compete with the industries in which they were interested. With nearly all Australian industries the local market is the only market the manufacturers have to depend upon.

In many such cases witnesses professed to be willing to enter into a bond not to increase prices except on account of a rise in wages and raw material, and offered to agree that such increase of prices be entirely within the control and supervision of the commission. They contended that to secure the local market would mean in many instances a considerable reduction of overhead charges and general expenses pro rata with the increased output, and would thus tend to reduce prices and turn what is in some cases now a loss or a poor working result into a profitable concern.

Tariff legislation furnishes no example of a duty being conditioned by such guaranties as those suggested, and, apart from the constitutional difficulty, the scheme proposed may lead to difficulties in operation.

On the other hand, to grant prohibitive duties, especially to industries in which only a few large firms operate, without some form of control of prices, would lead to certain combinations and a probable increase of cost in price to the consumer. Moreover, to give unrestricted power to advance prices in the absence of the stimulating influence of competition or some form of control

would also tend to lower the standards of efficiency, while the total exclusion of new ideas and improvements, to which the whole industrial world is contributing, could not possibly act otherwise than to our substantial detriment.

Prohibitive duties encourage monopolies and other combinations which destroy competition and unduly increase the cost of living to the advantage of the factory proprietors, but to the detriment of the workers and the community generally.

There is already in Australia, as we have seen during the present investigation, a growth of monopoly in various branches of industry which, if not subject to supervision and control, will be attended with mischief to the general welfare.

It is worthy of attention whether some means may not be devised by which, when the security conferred by the policy of protection is improperly used to create restrictions on internal competition and acquire excessive profits for manufacturers, there may be a check which will insure a prompt and effective remedy.

Future of Australian Industries.

Of considerable interest is the following passage from the report of the commission in regard to the future of Australian industries:

The remarkable progress of our manufacturing industries during the past five years has absorbed, to a large and, indeed, remarkable extent, the industrial population. It is, however, quite impossible to anticipate that this progress may long continue in the same ratio, and, if a substantial impetus is not given to other industries, there is danger of a diminution of remuneration by reason of the competition which would follow a surplus of available labor.

We have in Australia a comparatively small and not rapidly increasing population, the requirements of which, in manufactured articles, we are likely to successfully meet within a reasonably brief period of time. The population of Australia during the five years 1908-1913 increased by 15 per cent. During that period the number of persons employed in our factories increased by 30 per cent, and the value of the output of those factories increased by 62.32 per cent. Whilst some allowance must be made in regard to the last-mentioned increase for the rise in the price of commodities, there is nevertheless a very wide discrepancy, satisfactory from an industrial point of view in many respects but suggestive of the necessity for serious consideration in looking to the future welfare of the workers.

We can not well anticipate that in the open markets of the world Australia may successfully compete with the manufactured products of cheap labor or with the manufactured products of those countries whose larger populations enable them to manufacture in quantities much larger and consequently at a cost much less than is possible here under our present conditions. We need have no anxiety in regard to our export trade in those natural products for which there is an increasing world-wide demand; but there are numerous articles of manufacture the market for which is now and in all probability in the future will be limited to the confines of Australia.

Improvements in machinery and labor-saving appliances are slowly but surely lessening the proportionate demand for workers in manufacturing industries. This, with a less rapid industrial expansion in the future than that which has marked recent years, makes it imperatively necessary to provide for the time when our manufacturing industries may no longer be relied upon to absorb the ordinary natural increase in the ranks of the workers. Fortunately Australia offers the possibility of unlimited expansion in agriculture, mining, and pastoral industries, for the products of which the world's demand is practically unlimited.

An analysis of the figures of the population of Australia for 1901 and 1911 shows that while the total increase in the population for the decade was 18.05 per cent, the increase in the number of persons employed in factory industries was 58.44 per cent, as compared with increase of only 9.95 in persons employed in primary industries, such as agriculture, pastoral industries, mining, fisheries, etc.

Reports on Specific Industries.

In addition to the general reports the commission is publishing reports on specific industries, made up of the hearings and the con-

clusions and recommendations of the commission. The reports so far received by the Bureau deal with the following products: Fresh fruits; Portland cement; pickles; sauces and spices; socks and stockings; ale and beer; spirits for manufacturing purposes—sulphuric ether, perfumes, medicines, etc.; potable spirits; leather; boots and shoes; tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes; corsets; wool tops, woolen yarn, and machinery for the manufacture of tops and textiles generally; soap and soap-making materials; olive oil; hats and caps; glucose; women's and men's garments, piece goods, and curtains; hides and skins; wattle bark; matches and vestas; shale oil; cotton growing; printing inks and printers' roller composition; furniture; brasswork; stoves, fuel and gas, and register grates, etc.; slate slabs, roofing slates, and roofing and other tiles; type-printers' metal; horseshoe nails; electrotypes, stereotypes, and matrices; dried fruits; gas meters; inks, stains and dressings for leather; electroplated ware; locks and lock furniture; wire nails and barbed wire; paints and colors, varnishes, and paint oils; vehicles and parts, including motor vehicles; writing inks and ink powders; copper; enameled ware and hollow ware; brush ware, brush makers' drafts, and brush makers' woodware; rubber goods; electrical machinery and electrical and gas appliances; manures, native sulphur and pyrites; cordage; motor cycles and cycle parts; iron and steel; tin ores and unrefined tin; leatherware—harness, traveling and sporting goods, belting, etc., also similar goods in canvas and fiber; miscellaneous—butter, margarine, and edible oils; grain and pulse; corks and cork manufactures; weighing and testing machinery; arrowroot; dog biscuits; coffee; preserved fish; infants' and invalids' foods; game and eggs; isinglass; jelly crystals; lemon syrup crystals; edible nuts; onions and potatoes; metal polish; salt; canary seed; seeds of plants for green manures; tamarinds, yeast; badges, regalias, and gold embroideries; calico for the manufacture of bags for the export of flour; carpets, floor cloths, and linoleums; sewing cotton—fancy cotton threads, plain and mercerized; feathers; felt, roofing and damp-courses; saddlers' felt; artificial flowers; hessians and brattice cloth, jute piece goods and bookbinders' cloth; parasols; down quilts; saddlebags and divan covers; sails, tents, and tarpaulins; small shirt studs; and woven small ware.

All the reports mentioned above are filed in the Bureau and will be loaned to those interested upon application.

BRAZILIAN COLD STORAGE FOR AMERICAN FRUIT.

As a result of information made public through the medium of COMMERCE REPORTS and special bulletins as to the supplies and cost of fruit on the Brazilian markets, the Empresa de Armazens Frigoríficos has erected at Rio de Janeiro a thoroughly modern cold-storage warehouse, and plans to handle, on a commission basis, apples, pears, cherries, plums, grapes, and apricots from the United States. The company has written to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce for the addresses of American firms inclined to enter this business. Interested growers and shippers should communicate with the Empresa de Armazens Frigoríficos direct. Its New York address is 26 Broad Street.

SAFETY IN TRAFFIC ON GREAT LAKES.

The following correspondence between the Secretary of Commerce and the president of the Lake Carriers' Association is printed for the information of the public. To it is added the circular of the Pittsburgh Steamship Co. which speaks for itself. The attitude of the Lake Carriers' Association and of the Pittsburgh Steamship Co. as expressed herein is so commendable that it is thought the public should be informed concerning it.

OCTOBER 7, 1915.

MY DEAR MR. LIVINGSTONE:

Will you permit me to lay before you certain suggestions on matters of deep mutual concern and to ask that you kindly give them thoughtful consideration.

If I am correctly informed, pressure upon the transportation companies on the Great Lakes is likely to be unusually severe this fall, up to the very close of navigation. This will arise from the need for transporting the largest possible tonnage of ore to supply the active iron and steel industry through the winter, and also from the enormous crops of the Northwest, for the prompt handling of which sufficient railway facilities may not always be available. The situation, therefore, may call for the fullest use of all obtainable vessels as late in the season as practicable.

Under these circumstances risks may be taken which would under ordinary circumstances be avoided. Under the pressure of supposed necessity, cargo capacity may be taxed to the utmost and precautions may be neglected in the rush of work, which may well mean the loss of life and property should a severe storm catch vessels unexpectedly during the coming boisterous weeks. I refer, of course, to freight vessels only.

It is not my wish to criticize in advance or to assume any purpose of neglect. In two important respects, however, the department has no power under the law to control dangerous practices if and when they exist, and it is concerning these in particular that I now appeal to you to warn vessel owners in advance of the danger that may follow if these matters are neglected.

As regards the overloading of vessels, the power of the department would end when the inspector called the attention of the captain or other controlling officer to the fact of such overloading. If, however, the captain or owner chooses, the vessel may proceed, and the law can not stop her. The same is true as regards the trimming of cargoes and the stowing of goods. As to both these it may be said that the self-interest of owner and captain would lead to taking proper care. Experience, however, shows this is not always so. Many owners, many captains, doubtless the greater number by far of both, will take care in such matters. Some captains, however, will hesitate to take the care they wish if they feel the owners are pressing them for time and cargoes.

Some owners will take risks for a great stake that their own sober judgment would not approve were the reward for passing the risk less visible. In both cases the responsibility that exists toward the crew of the vessel is overlooked, and I can not too strongly urge on you that this is a grave responsibility which can not be set aside.

I trust, therefore, that you will take such measures as will bring these matters promptly and plainly to the attention of the members of your association, and that your great influence will be thrown strongly in favor of exceptional care in these directions. I beg to remain,

Yours, very truly,

(Signed)

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD, *Secretary.*

WILLIAM LIVINGSTONE, Esq.,

President Lake Carriers' Association, Detroit, Mich.

LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION,

Detroit, Mich., October 13, 1915.

MY DEAR MR. REDFIELD:

The views expressed in your letter of 7th correspond exactly to my own ideas, and I heartily reciprocate your views, and I am pleased to say also that I am sure they are reciprocated by the whole of our executive committee.

Perhaps one of the best expressions in that line is to inclose (which I do herewith) a copy of circular which Mr. H. Coulby, president of the Pittsburgh

Steamship Co. (the largest single fleet on the lakes, comprising over 100 steamers), has sent out to his masters, which you will note reflects your views thoroughly as to safety and judgment to be used.

In this connection I desire to call your attention to one fact in connection with our lake navigation which I think will interest you materially, and that is this, that on account of the limited draft of water in channels connecting the Great Lakes, the danger of overloading our modern ships is eliminated, and the side hoppers in the modern ships makes them practically self-trimming.

It is true, however, that we have a minor percentage of our vessels that are not strictly modern and do not have all these advantages, but on the other hand, they do not draw as much water as the larger modern vessels, carry smaller cargoes, and have all the life-saving appliances and aids to safety in navigation. I think I am justified, however, in saying that at least 70 per cent of the vessels in our association are strictly modern vessels.

I will surely be very glad to cooperate with you in anything that pertains to safety of life, property, and ship. As a matter of fact, if we put it on cold-blooded business principles, it is the best course to pursue, and yet we are not unmindful of the fact by any means that there is something more in this world than simply dollars and cents, that safety to life comes first, and that by using every possible aid for the protection of life, we of necessity are using every possible aid for the protection of vessel and property. With kind regards, I remain,

Truly, yours,

(Signed) W. LIVINGSTONE, *President.*

PITTSBURGH STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT,
Cleveland, Ohio, October 6, 1915.

To our captains:

Inclosed I hand you a circular letter prepared by the Lake Carriers' Association concerning the new Seamen's Law, which goes into effect November 4, 1915. I do not know that I can add anything to what has been covered in the circular. You must all of you do your utmost to comply with the law, so as to get through the balance of the season. After the close of navigation I expect to call our captains and engineers into conference in an endeavor to standardize our fleet and formulate such rules as will enable us to intelligently carry out the requirements of the law as interpreted by the local inspectors. By that time we shall all of us have had experience which will be of great assistance to us in our meeting.

The fall is now here, bringing with it an abnormal freight condition on the Lakes. Grain rates are very high and there is a very active demand for ships, which is an incentive to everybody in the business to get the best possible dispatch, and it is likely to develop a tendency to take chances to make time, and I want to warn you against doing this. I appreciate you are all continually on the alert and anxious to make a good showing with your ship. I want to again remind you that you must not neglect any of the rules laid down safeguarding the crew and property under your charge. When conditions are favorable there is no economy in trying to save fuel this time of year, but I do recommend that before leaving port and en route at the Sault you get the weather forecast. Have your hatches all properly secured before leaving port, and use your own best judgment in navigating with the intention of getting into port safely, even though by doing so you may be a little longer in accomplishing it.

Yours, very truly,

(Signed) H. COULBY, *President.*

CIRCULAR TO THE HEMP TRADE.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs at Washington is in receipt of a cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands advising that during September Philippine government fiber inspectors inspected and stamped 89,494 bales abaca and 3,248 bales maguey, as follows: Abaca: A, 607; B, 1,103; C, 2,371; D, 4,112; E, 7,923; S-1, 1,793; S-2, 1,971; S-3, 794; F, 10,354; G, 2,990; H, 2,015; I, 11,860; J, 13,409; K, 4,594; L, 15,743; M, 6,399; strings, etc., 1,501. Maguey: 1, 215; 2, 1,794; 3, 1,132; D, 107.

COMMERCIAL FAILURES IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 6.]

Argentine commercial failures by months for this year, compared with corresponding months of last year, show an encouraging decrease, especially for August, although the 1914 figures for that month included the failure of the French Bank (Banco Frances y Rio de la Plata.) This bank has since been reorganized and is again operating in a normal way, paying off its creditors and depositors in quarterly quotas.

Stated in American currency, the record month by month has been :

Month.	1914		1915	
	Assets.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Liabilities.
January.....	\$7,996,621	\$7,162,871	\$7,689,394	\$6,513,231
February.....	14,871,378	13,117,343	11,701,706	8,575,801
March.....	14,700,840	12,440,106	9,838,625	8,528,850
April.....	12,639,848	10,480,020	5,050,237	4,371,027
May.....	18,943,381	15,275,760	9,244,635	7,053,567
June.....	13,045,829	10,625,593	10,628,739	7,390,299
July.....	16,664,985	12,431,560	8,495,010	6,802,713
August.....	74,833,369	36,814,875	6,306,150	5,008,848

Press Comment on August Returns.

In connection with the foregoing figures, the comments of the Buenos Aires Herald on the August showing are of interest :

There is a natural feeling of satisfaction in commercial circles at the diminution in the return of failures and settlements for August. Compared with this time last year the difference is marked, liabilities then figuring at \$36,814,875 against the \$5,008,848 of the recent returns; but it ought not to be forgotten that part of the \$36,000,000 was made up of the liabilities of the French Bank (some \$29,000,000), together with two or three other big firms totaling at least \$2,000,000. Thus analyzed, the improvement is not so great, but nevertheless the August figures are the second lowest for the current year.

Where the most hopeful signs are to be found are in the classified statements of the various debtors whose affairs are awaiting legal settlement. Trade in general, wholesale and retail, figures much lower down the list than it has done for several months, the chief proportion of the \$5,000,000 aforementioned being chargeable to property owners, builders, and bakers. The last item may at first appear strange, seeing that bread is always in demand, but their presence on the list for over \$400,000 may probably be put down to the adoption of the "cash on delivery" system by the millers instead of the long credits formerly granted to the trade.

CORRECTION IN RUSSIAN DRUG PRICES.

Consul General Snodgrass, at Moscow, states that in the report on pharmaceutical preparations in Russia, published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 21, 1915, the prices given were for 1 kilo (2.2046 pounds) and not for 1 pound. The correct prices are therefore as follows: Salicylic acid, \$9.27 per kilo (\$4.20 per pound); iodine, \$21.12 per kilo (\$9.58 per pound) on the local market and \$19.06 per kilo (\$8.65 per pound) in larger lots from South America; morphine, \$257.50 per kilo (\$116.80 per pound); codeine, \$360.50 per kilo (\$163.52 per pound).

ANALYSIS OF AUGUST EXPORT TRADE.

Practically all important American industries are now enjoying increased exports, according to an analysis of August trade made by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. Earlier months of the year showed decreased exports in cotton, lumber, naval stores, electrical goods, and tobacco, but those articles have now entered the list of those showing increasing exports, which includes metal goods, chemicals, fertilizers, fruits, glassware, hides and skins, rubber goods, leather manufactures, musical instruments, oil cake, mineral oil, cottonseed oil, paints and varnishes, paper manufactures, seeds, soap, refined sugar, and foodstuffs generally. Photographic goods, unmanufactured tobacco, coal, and spirits, wines, and liquors are the only important groups in which decreases occurred in value during August.

American exports for the first eight months of 1915 totaled \$2,195,000,000, or 70 per cent more than for a corresponding period of last year. The acceleration in export movement in the latter part of the year, however, was sufficient to carry the August total to \$257,000,000, or 138 per cent more than that for August, 1914.

The following table shows the leading articles and their value exported during August and the eight months ending with August, 1914 and 1915, respectively:

Articles exported.	August—		Eight months ending Aug. 31—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
Cotton	\$1,306,000	\$7,626,000	\$236,409,000	\$287,779,000
Wheat and flour	27,432,000	25,592,000	108,562,000	272,872,000
Iron and steel manufactures	10,429,000	37,727,000	140,246,000	212,697,000
Meat and dairy products	9,741,000	19,024,000	89,079,000	190,768,000
Breadstuffs, n. e. s.	2,889,000	4,942,000	17,839,000	110,960,000
Leather, and manufactures of	2,047,000	13,932,000	35,491,000	109,543,000
Oils, mineral	7,990,000	14,070,000	95,199,000	93,824,000
Automobiles and parts	762,000	9,547,000	21,492,000	74,845,000
Copper, and manufactures of	5,035,000	7,781,000	89,713,000	74,345,000
Horses	97,000	8,593,000	2,119,000	68,934,000
Explosives	349,000	14,658,000	4,143,000	65,912,000
Cotton manufactures	2,269,000	7,413,000	30,428,000	62,496,000
Chemicals, drugs, etc.	1,862,000	6,854,000	17,792,000	45,784,000
Coal	7,057,000	6,683,000	36,150,000	39,594,000
Wood, and manufactures of	4,398,000	6,038,000	61,279,000	35,020,000
Tobacco, unmanufactured	1,722,000	6,273,000	28,807,000	32,966,000
Brass, and manufactures of	311,000	4,561,000	4,559,000	26,603,000
Wool manufactures	297,000	1,986,000	3,148,000	22,726,000
Paints and varnish	438,000	2,036,000	4,784,000	21,904,000
Sugar, refined	1,630,000	7,118,000	2,505,000	21,177,000
Oil cake and meal	477,000	1,678,000	10,883,000	19,805,000
Fruits	1,872,000	2,723,000	12,793,000	18,892,000
Cottonseed oil	407,000	1,787,000	8,911,000	18,435,000
Zinc manufactures	498,000	3,011,000	699,000	18,270,000
Mules	14,000	2,529,000	390,000	16,756,000
Electrical goods	1,024,000	1,806,000	13,655,000	14,977,000
Rubber goods	602,000	2,359,000	7,679,000	12,956,000
Paper, and manufactures of	1,389,000	1,917,000	13,337,000	13,783,000
Fiber manufactures	462,000	2,014,000	7,725,000	11,595,000
Agricultural implements	79,000	182,000	1,265,000	9,279,000

The most striking increases occurred in commercial automobiles, cotton wearing apparel, boots and shoes, wire, firearms and explosives, refined sugar, harness and saddles, aeroplanes, and woolen goods.

RAPID PROGRESS OF THE PORT OF ARCHANGEL.¹

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Sept. 5.]

There has probably never been a more noteworthy expansion in the trade of any particular port in such a short time than has occurred at Archangel during the last year. Previous to the war the trade of this port was confined to comparatively small exports of timber, fish, furs, and other local products of northern Russia, and a relatively small return movement of goods required for local consumption. Now, however, Archangel is the only port of European Russia open for foreign business by direct sea communication, and, except Vladivostok, in eastern Siberia, it has no rival in the Russian Empire. From a comparatively unimportant port about a year ago, dependent chiefly upon its sawmills and fishing fleet for prosperity, it has suddenly become one of the most important ports in the world, rivaling even New York in the number and tonnage of ships arriving and departing between about May 1 and the close of ice-free navigation. At the time of my visit in August about 120 large steamers were in port, and about 300 had arrived since May. An immense number of boats and barges are also engaged in river and canal navigation, many of them carrying as much as 2,000 tons each; these have been diverted largely from the lower Volga River traffic.

The Dwina River at Archangel is 1 to 3 miles wide, with a depth of 20 to 40 feet. The tide from the White Sea amounts to about 3 feet. At the various piers and landing stages the depth of water is usually 22 feet or more at low tide. Archangel is an extremely long but narrow city, extending only a few blocks eastward from the river, but with its suburbs and outlying houses northward it extends about 30 miles, or almost to the White Sea. The main street is about 6 miles long. For a distance of nearly 40 miles south and north of the river almost to the White Sea there is now considerable shipping. In front of the main part of the city there are about 35 large piers, as against only 3 or 4 a year ago. Over 100 large warehouses have been built within a year. There is still an insufficiency of piers and warehouses, and ships arriving sometimes have to lie out in the stream for some weeks before they can unload. One American steamer had to take five weeks to discharge all its cargo.

Transportation to the Interior by Water and Rail.

Larger preparations than ever are being planned to meet the traffic for next spring, and it is hoped that the facilities may then be sufficient to take care, with reasonable promptness, of the enormous business that has developed. If Archangel were free from ice during the winter it would be one of the finest ports in the world, since it has 60 to 70 miles of river frontage available for ships drawing up to 23 feet. Moreover, through the magnificent system of inland waterways with which the Dwina River is connected, it is possible to ship freight from Archangel by water to nearly all the principal towns of Russia. During the spring, especially, when there is high water in the rivers and canals, there would seem to be no reason why nearly all the immense amount of freight arriving could not be distributed through these interior waterways, except that there is an insufficiency

¹A cablegram containing a résumé of conditions at Archangel was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 23, 1915.



of river boats and barges to handle such traffic. Most of the barges draw about 6 feet of water and carry 500 to 2,000 tons of freight.

The trip between Archangel and Vologda by river steamers via Kotlas involves the navigation of a long roundabout bend of the river and requires about eight days against the current and four or five days with the current. The congestion of cotton at Archangel has been largely relieved by removing the cotton in river boats to Vologda, where there is broad-gauge railway communication with Moscow and Petrograd. At present, the chief difficulty in getting the cotton to the mills in the industrial district around Moscow is connected more with the scarcity of railway cars at Vologda than with obstacles to the shipment of cotton from Archangel. Some of the important cotton-milling interests in the Moscow district are now planning to have the cotton taken all the way by water from Archangel to Nizhni Novgorod on the Volga River, and thence by rail to the mills, the railroad between Nizhni Novgorod and Moscow not being so seriously congested with freight as are the railways forming a junction at Vologda.

The freight rates for the water and canal service between Archangel and Vologda have gone up from 35 to 80 kopecks per pod (\$9.98 to \$22.82 per short ton), every class of freight paying the same rate. Freight to or from Siberia can be transferred at Kotlas, where there is a railway line to Vyatka on the Northern Railway, which connects with the Transsiberian Railway.

Archangel is connected with the west side of the Dwina River by ferry. The freight for the narrow-gauge railway line to Vologda has to be transferred to the west side of the river, as the railroad terminus is on that side. Owing to marshes and low depth of water, the west side of the river has not been developed as has the east side, where large steamers can come right up to the shore.

The Harbor in Winter—Relief of Congestion and Projected Improvements.

The river begins freezing in October, but is expected to be kept open from Archangel out through the White Sea till December. It is the intention this coming winter to maintain the present fortnightly service of steamers by the Russian-American Line from Archangel to New York until the end of January. Two of the largest ice breakers in the world are now at Archangel, the *Canada* and the *Lintrose*, and it is understood that several more large ice breakers are being constructed in England for use here during the coming winter. During the late part of the season, incoming ships may be allowed, as they were last year, to get frozen in, unloading their cargoes on the ice, which is later broken to release the ships.

There was comparatively little serious congestion at Archangel in August. The rapid clearing of the situation there since last spring, in spite of the great fresh accumulation of goods by large steamers arriving all summer, indicated that there had been energetic work in getting freight removed and that the facilities for unloading and moving the goods had much improved. Goods for the Government are moved by the narrow-gauge railway line and to some extent by the river boats or barges. Nearly all goods consigned to private firms are shipped by boats or barges, but when in handy packages they may be accepted as baggage by the railway. The narrow-gauge line is being worked efficiently and is said to be taking about 150 carloads

of freight per day. Construction on the single-track standard Russian gauge line parallel to the present narrow-gauge line from Vologda to Nyandoma (about 170 miles from Vologda, or halfway to Archangel), has not been accomplished as rapidly as was expected, and present indications are that it will not be completed until the end of October, instead of August as was hoped. The completion of this standard-gauge line to Nyandoma is expected to double the carrying capacity of the line, as the cars on the narrow-gauge portion, having to traverse only half the distance to Vologda, could double the present number of trips. As soon as traffic permits it is intended to widen the Vologda-Nyandoma narrow-gauge line and eventually to have a double-track standard-gauge line all the way from Archangel to Vologda. The work of substituting long sleepers, or ties, for the present short ties is now gradually proceeding on the narrow-gauge part, preparatory to the later broadening of the whole line.

Kola as Winter Port.

It is understood that rapid progress is being made with the construction of a railway across the Murman Peninsula to Kola, in Lapland, lying at the head of an estuary (27 miles long) of the Arctic Ocean, and it is hoped that this railway will be completed next January or February, so that Kola may succeed Archangel for winter use. Between the end of January and May 1 it will doubtless be impossible to keep Archangel open even with powerful ice breakers. Around this part of the Arctic Ocean the Gulf Stream finally dissipates itself, creating sufficient warmth to prevent the formation of any formidable ice. The railway across Lapland is stated to be of easy construction, and it is understood that a large part of the rails and other equipment have already arrived, the largest orders having been placed in the United States. Considerable improvements are being made around Kola to facilitate loading and unloading. Some of the shipping agents now at Archangel are planning to make their temporary headquarters there between January and May. For some months the Kola route will probably require transshipment of goods on boats along the west coast of the White Sea to Kem or to Soroka, to which towns an extension of the new Petrograd-Petrozavodsk railway line (now almost completed) will be rapidly pushed and will probably be ready at the same time as the railway across the Murman Peninsula. The use of the White Sea for transfer of freight by boat between the two sections of railway under construction will require the services of ice breakers, which will also be cargo carriers, during the winter months; but as the ice along the west coast is of very light formation, a comparatively small ice breaker will be required. Eventually, but not in time for next winter, there will be continuous railway connection between Petrograd and Kola. Since Archangel also should by that time have excellent railway service with Petrograd and Moscow, and since goods arriving or departing from Archangel would have a considerably shorter railway haul than from Kola, as well as the advantage of easy river and canal communication, the Kola route is not expected to take the place of Archangel, except when the latter port is frozen up. In the summer time Kem and Soroka, as soon as they have railway facilities, may assist in relieving any congestion at Archangel.

Forwarding Agencies—Conditions in Cotton Trade.

The difficulties during the last year in connection with American trade with Russia through Archangel have not been entirely due to lack of sufficient transportation facilities and the overworked condition of the narrow-gauge line to Vologda. One of the chief embarrassments was the result of the small number of competent and trustworthy forwarding and shipping agencies at Archangel and the fact that the best of these agencies have had such an enormous amount of business turned over to them that it was impossible to give to each shipment the time and attention required. A list of the best known forwarding and steamship agents of Archangel is inclosed [and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 697], but it is not intended to vouch for the reliability of any of the firms mentioned. Representatives of certain American firms in Russia, when expecting large and important consignments of goods from the United States via Archangel, have found it worth their while to go personally to Archangel to attend to the details of forwarding. The difficulties with regard to Archangel in most cases can apparently be surmounted by earnest effort, tact, and enterprise in making arrangements to have goods cleared and forwarded.

There is still a large amount of various American goods, especially cotton, lying around Archangel, and the cotton may be more or less seriously damaged by exposure to weather. This cotton, however, does not represent any American loss, as it was all bought and paid for by the Russian importers whose business it is to get it to the local mills as soon as possible by whatever way is most practicable. Since American cotton-producing interests, however, are naturally concerned in finding as large a market as possible in Russia for their cotton, and since Russian importation of American cotton has been greatly discouraged by difficulties in the way of shipping through either Archangel or Vladivostok, it might be worth the while of important American cotton growers and exporters to make a cooperative arrangement with Russian importers for prompt and efficient forwarding of cotton from Archangel to the interior, and for proper storage of the cotton during such time as it may be delayed at Archangel.

Aspects of Archangel and Vladivostok Routes for Cotton.

It has been suggested that if early preparations were made for shipping the new crop of American cotton to reach Archangel about next May and for sufficient barge space, possibly through purchase of barges, for its transfer to the interior, Russian importers, feeling thus assured that they might get the cotton, would import much more liberally than otherwise. It was also mentioned that notwithstanding some unfavorable conditions at Archangel there is more hope for this route than for Vladivostok, owing to the excellent interior waterway communications and the much cheaper freight rate from Archangel. I was shown some samples of American cotton at Moscow that had arrived via Vladivostok and had been seriously damaged in transit to Moscow, owing probably to inexperience in handling cotton over this route. For instance, much of this cotton not only was damaged by wet, but was discolored by being piled up with other kinds of freight, such as coal and bricks. Special en-

couragement has just been given to the Archangel route for importing cotton through the note received by the Cotton Committee of the Moscow Exchange from the Minister of Trade and Industry to the effect that it is now permitted to reload cotton at Archangel direct from ocean steamers to river boats according to the weights mentioned on the bills of lading, with partial checking as to its character. The goods are handled less by the new method, which also saves an immense amount of time and expense over the previous method of requiring that all the cotton be unloaded, measured, etc., before it could be cleared through the customhouse.

Development of the City of Archangel.

Archangel, owing to its sudden "boom," presents some of the aspects of towns in the western part of the United States, where sudden excitement has resulted from the discovery of valuable minerals. A great number of houses, sheds, shops, etc., have suddenly been erected to accommodate the overwhelming rush of business, and especially to cater to the wants of the large number of ships and sailors now in the harbor. A tramway is being constructed along the main street of the town, and the local government is shortly to complete an electric light and power plant, which will not only furnish power for the street railway but also light the city. The present governor of Archangel is said to be extremely progressive and active in bringing about improvements in the city, and it has been due largely to his efforts that the tremendous congestion of freight at Archangel last spring has been so greatly relieved. The city has a healthy, bracing climate all the year, but it is very cold in winter. From the standpoint of tourists, probably the most interesting feature of Archangel is the attractive fur shops, where all kinds of northern furs can be bought and where the great specialty is polar-bear skins from Nova Zembla and other near-by regions of the Arctic Ocean. The city has a population of 35,000 to 40,000. There is hotel accommodation for visitors, but it can not be called excellent. The passenger service on the narrow-gauge railway line from Archangel to Vologda, like the freight service, is very limited and usually overcrowded, so that trips over the line are often delayed because of lack of accommodation. Along the river front are numerous prosperous sawmills, which do a big business in cutting the timber brought down the river for exportation to England and other countries. Just outside of Archangel is an interesting farm for breeding black, white, and blue foxes for their skins.

The cost of common labor at Archangel has gone up to 4 rubles per day, which at the normal rate of exchange would represent about \$2. This is a high rate of wages for common labor in Russia. There is considerable need here of all kinds of labor-saving devices. Four floating cranes, lifting 200 to 300 tons, have lately been imported, but there is room for a great deal of improvement or extension of the facilities for loading and unloading freight.

Large Wheat Exports—Shipping Regulation—Foreign Consulates.

Archangel has become one of the most important wheat-exporting ports of the world; apparently much of the wheat formerly exported from Black Sea or Baltic ports is now shipped from here. In August it was said that about 1,000,000 poods (18,000 short tons) was lying

in port, while 15,000,000 or 20,000,000 poods¹ (270,000 to 360,000 short tons) had been shipped since May. A curious feature in connection with the shipping at Archangel has been that comparatively small and unimportant cargoes have arrived from England, but extremely important and full cargoes, including especially eggs, butter, and flax, go to England, while ships from the United States arrive with full cargoes, but return practically in ballast, because most articles that Russia ordinarily exports to the United States are now embargoed from exportation except to allied nations.

Masters of ships entering port are cautioned that if they bring any goods, even if it is only a book, without a bill of lading, they should declare it as ship's or personal property brought for sale, in order to prevent a fine by the customhouse.

Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, and France have consulates at Archangel, and Germany had one before the war. The United States has no consular representative here. Matters relating to American business are referred to the American consul at Petrograd.

SCARCITY OF JUTE IN SWEDEN.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sept. 10.]

Owing to the scarcity of jute in Sweden a number of mills have been forced to close temporarily. The jute used in this country is all imported from East India, and not only is this product entirely owned and controlled by English dealers but the English Government is in position to control the trade routes over which jute must come in order to reach Sweden.

An export prohibition on jute has existed in England practically since the outbreak of the war, and only certain quantities have been shipped to neutral countries under special licenses. Swedish mill owners who use jute in any large quantities are of the opinion, however, that the negotiations now being carried on in Stockholm by an English and Swedish committee will result in the permission for jute to be exported to Sweden in such quantities as are absolutely necessary for the mills. It is, therefore, anticipated that the mills now closed will shortly resume work.

PUFFBALLS AS FOOD.

A correspondent for an English agricultural paper has the following to say regarding puffballs as food:

Just at this time the giant puffball (*Lycoperdon giganteum*) is at its prime and offers many excellent and inexpensive meals to country dwellers, but it is seldom indeed that its merits are appreciated. As I write, the fragments of a splendid puffball that might have provided a free meal for a family lie on the road outside, where some one has trampled it under as "rank p'sen." This fungus, if picked when it is young and white-fleshed, is perfectly wholesome, and, if cut into slices and fried, it makes a delicious and satisfying dish. Care, however, must be taken not to eat it when the flesh shows a yellow tinge.

¹ Owing to an error in transmission, the cabled résumé published in COMMERCE REPORTS Aug. 23, 1915, stated this amount as 20,000,000 pounds.

STEAMSHIP SERVICE FOR HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Sept. 29.]

It has been reported that the steamer service for the west coast of Central America from San Francisco, heretofore supplied by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., will soon cease. Such an event will seriously hamper the trade of this consular district, unless the service is supplied by other lines maintaining a regular schedule. Two small steamers belonging to the Salvador Railroad Co. operate between Salina Cruz and Panama, which also touch at Amapala, but these could not possibly handle all the freight for the southern port of Honduras. An occasional steamer of the lines of W. R. Grace & Co. makes irregular connection with these coasts also.

Recent telegrams from Salvador state that the master of the steamship *California*, owner not stated, has signed a contract with the Guatemala Government for an American line of steamers to regularly visit this coast, and hopes to make similar contracts with other Central American countries.

The import trade for the Pacific port of Amapala during the year 1914 was 10,877 tons, an increase of 2,756 tons over the previous year. The export trade is not heavy and is approximately 500 tons. As this commerce is almost exclusively with the United States, it is hoped that such publicity will be given the matter as to secure the interest and favorable action of some responsible steamship company. It is the opinion of this consulate that the Honduras Government would be willing to grant at least a modest subsidy for a regular schedule of service with Panama and San Francisco.

SIX MONTHS' COMMERCE OF SANTOS, BRAZIL.

[Consul Charles L. Latham, Santos, Sept. 6.]

The importations from foreign countries into the port of Santos for the first six months of 1915 amounted to \$17,154,195 United States currency, compared with \$25,907,067 in the corresponding period of 1914, according to statistics compiled by the Agricultural Department of the State of Sao Paulo. The exports for the same period were valued at \$48,725,855 United States currency, compared with \$54,624,348 in the first half of the preceding year.

Exports of coffee constituted a large portion of the whole, the quantities for the period under review being 5,134,896 sacks in 1915 and 3,995,219 sacks in 1914. The principal items of export and import, with their values in United States currency, were:

Articles.	1914	1915	Articles.	1914	1915
EXPORTS.			IMPORTS—continued.		
Coffee.....	\$54,075,587	\$47,991,077	Chemical products.....	\$649,659	\$599,705
Rubber.....	3,294	1,895	Skin and leather.....	569,395	516,335
Bran.....	38,443	14,500	Spun jute and hemp.....	212,163	105,637
Bananas.....	307,129	241,617	Raw jute and hemp.....	391,718	826,563
IMPORTS.			Coal.....	1,335,958	769,754
Cotton, raw and fabrics..	1,320,229	660,510	Kerosene.....	261,611	389,418
Steel and manufactures..	2,578,268	994,960	Rice.....	32,049	.....
Industrial machinery....	375,756	153,738	Dried codfish.....	373,594	404,299
Agricultural machinery..	65,575	13,672	Flour.....	555,670	285,320
Various machinery and parts.....	2,579,105	631,618	Wheat.....	3,179,667	3,803,463
			Wine, fine and common..	1,808,415	1,183,665
			Various foodstuffs.....	2,253,647	1,542,909
			Paper and metal money ..	.....	14,887

THE RUSSIAN FUR MARKET.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Aug. 24 and Sept. 9.]

According to the industrial press, business is very slack on the fur market. The payment of outstanding debts, which is usual at this time of year, is not observed at the present time. The demand for karakul for the domestic market has gone down to a minimum. Prices have lost their steadiness, and this fur sells at the Nizhni fair at reduced rates, but if its exportation to the United States is permitted there will be an immediate recovery.

At present the large supplies of last year's karakul that were in the possession of the banks have been somewhat reduced. In the course of the first half of the year there was a steady demand on the part of speculators, particularly for the superior kinds. The speculators, expecting that the exportation of karakul will sooner or later be permitted, tried to purchase good skins at low prices, calculating that even if they remained in stock until next year they would represent a good investment. The fur dealers, on their part, assumed that on the Nizhni fair there would be a demand for the domestic market, and for that reason willingly bought furs of good quality. Thus the supplies of karakul are no longer accumulated in the hands of a few. However, this circumstance does not dispel the apprehensions of the fur dealers. It appears that large purchases of fresh skins have been made in Bokhara, where this year's yield of skins has been more plentiful than last year's, and for this reason was sold at fairly low prices in spite of the increased cost of forage. The prices were 4 to 8 rubles (\$2.06 to \$4.12 at the normal rate of \$0.515 to the ruble) for 10 undyed raw skins. Apprehensions are being felt as to the possibility of marketing so large a quantity of skins at the Nizhni fair. The domestic market is well provided with this sort of fur from last year, and the demand from the speculators has reached its climax, and is not likely to continue even at low prices. The question of exportation of karakul to the United States is still unsettled.

A limited quantity of sable is observed at the Nizhni fair, the supplies having been disposed of during the winter. There is an average demand for red fox, of which the supplies are considerable. As there are no purchasers from abroad, it will be difficult to sell. There is a fair demand for dyed hare, the price of which averages 6 to 7 rubles (\$3.09 to \$3.61) per dozen in Moscow, and is increased by 5 per cent at the fair. Considerable quantities of raw squirrel are seen at the fair in anticipation of a great demand. The prices are the same as those of last year—25 to 80 rubles (\$12.88 to \$41.20) for dressed skins. There is also a considerable supply of ermine; superior Ishim skins are sold for \$1.55 each; Yakutsk skins at \$0.90 to \$1.08; and Petchora skins at \$1.29 each and above.

No business was done in marmot, and there is little business in lynx and other skins, which have sunk in price by 20 to 25 per cent from those of 1914. A fair business is expected in skunks, of which there is but a limited supply on the market owing to the absence of imports from abroad.

The Nizhni-Novgorod Fair.

An American buyer just arrived from Nizhni-Novgorod states that the skin and fur trade is lively and prices in the main active, but that

purchasers are awaiting definite instructions from the United States as to the prospect of selling direct. Calfskins are particularly worthy of consideration; for the first time in Russia's history domestic tanners are endeavoring to utilize them.

Goods sent to the fair, however, are coming in very slowly, owing to detention during transit. At present a very small quantity of furs is on the market, partly because the banks have not sent any karakul to the fair. They did not expect any business of importance with this fur, because its exportation was prohibited before the beginning of the fair. Even if the banks give orders now for the fur to be sent to the fair it will be received too late. Owing to the good demand for light-quality karakul before the fair and the lowering of prices at the beginning of this year, very little karakul suitable for coats has remained in the hands of the merchants. The larger part of the stock in Moscow is composed of heavy qualities, most of which is sold for exportation, principally to America. For this reason no furs from Moscow are expected to arrive at the fair; small quantities of karakul, of a quality suited for the interior market, will be sold according to samples.

Karakul Production and Prices.

According to information on hand at several large firms, the last season's production of karakul was about 1,300,000 furs, against 1,500,000 in normal times. The reason for the diminution is to be found in the fact that the farmers, seeing the falling off of prices, did not want to force the production. However, in spite of this year's production of karakul being somewhat smaller than usual, the aggregate quantity of karakul on the market will not be smaller than formerly, there being large stocks from former seasons, both at the places of production and at the fair.

There have not been important transactions in karakul at the fair as yet, but they are expected to occur if the exportation of karakul to the United States should be permitted. Small transactions have already been concluded at the fair at prices 35 per cent above those in March. Agents for purchasing karakul for the United States have arrived. It is believed, however, that there will not be important speculative purchases for America and that the karakul business at the fair will take place without big changes in prices. The prices for karakul will probably be the same as they were before the beginning of the war.

There are no big stocks of furs dyed abroad, and these goods change hands at raised prices, which are evidently not normal.

COPPER PRODUCTION ON ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Egypt, Sept. 10.]

An American copper-mining syndicate at Skouriotissa, Cyprus, has applied for Government permission to lay a railway from its mines to the port of Karavostassi so as to facilitate the shipping of ore. The total quantity extracted from these mines to date aggregates about 4,000,000 tons. It is believed that after the proposed tunnels in the mines are completed the daily output of ore will approximate 1,000 tons. Three more American mining engineers will soon arrive to join the syndicate's staff.

DYEING MATERIALS PRODUCED IN ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Sept. 1.]

This report has been prepared for the purpose of directing the attention of American manufacturers of dye to the products supplied by Ecuador, some of which have been used by dyers for many years. A description of the principal materials follows:

Orchilla, or Archil.

Orchilla is a lichen (*Roccella tinctoria* and *R. fuciformis*) from which the coloring substances archil and litmus, two coloring substances, are obtained, cudbear being the product of an allied species (*Lecanora tartarea*). Other names by which these parmeliaceous plants are known are canary moss, cape weed, dyer's moss, flat orchil, and Mauritius weed. They are found on the rocks near the sea in the Madeira Islands, Canary and Cape Verde Islands, Kongo, Sardinia, Minorca Islands, the Levant, Sweden, southern coast of England, Malaga coast of India, Magdalena Bay of Lower California, and on the trees on the coast of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, the plants from American localities furnishing a more delicate and brilliant color than those from other sources.

The plant as observed in Ecuador is a pale greenish gray, made up of many flat, thin branches 4 to 6 inches long, more than a quarter of an inch broad, and covered with powdery warts (soredia). It grows abundantly on the trunks and branches of all forest trees on a strip of country 2 miles wide extending along the coast from Santa Elena to Playas and to a less extent for some distance up the Guayas River. It grows still more abundantly on several of the Galapagos Islands some 700 miles off the coast, but is never found on rocks in America.

The plants are free to anyone disposed to gather them, and are present in such quantities that Ecuador can furnish 3,000 tons annually. The trees are selected and stripped of the lichens, four years being required to produce another crop. The plants are pulled from the bark by hand from April to December, each man collecting 100 to 200 pounds daily. They are spread out to dry for a day or two, then pressed into bales of 550 to 650 pounds each, when they are ready for export.

The prices vary from year to year. In 1912 orchilla sold f. o. b. Guayaquil for \$41.55 per ton; in 1913, for \$22.50; in 1914, \$48; and on September 2, 1915, the price advanced to \$73 per ton. The exporters of orchilla are F. G. Monroy, of Guayaquil, and R. Bustos and N. Ochoa, both of Chandin, Ecuador.

Achiote, or Annatto.

Achiote, known to the trade as annatto, roucou, and oleana, is the product of the tree *Bixa orellana*, which grows in the humid zones of Ecuador and other tropical countries of America. It is used in Ecuador to form hedges and groves, one of which contains upward of 10,000 trees. The flowers are normal in shape and rose-colored. The fruit is heart-shaped, rather more than an inch long, brownish-red, and covered with stiff thorns, resembling a chestnut burr. They are removed from the trees with a machete and placed in the sun to dry, when they split open yielding the seeds. The seeds have a thin

coating of reddish waxy pulp, which is separated by dissolving in water, and, after settling, is dried into an unctuous paste of a dark orange-red color, called annatto, and rolled in leaves or formed into cakes. As found in the markets, it contains variable quantities of flour, chalk, and other ingredients to give it consistency.

Annatto is used alone to color cottons bright orange and buff, and imparts a flesh color to silks, although the dye is not permanent. It is employed principally for giving deeper shades to plain yellows in silks and woolen and cotton cloth. If allowed to ferment during its manufacture a superior article for dyeing is produced which has a disagreeable odor. Certain varnishes and lacquers receive their orange color from this substance. Annatto, however, is of most importance as a coloring material for butter and cheese, being employed for that purpose in all dairying countries. It also is used by unprincipled persons to impart a red color to cacao beans discolored through want of proper attention.

Owing to the present limited demand, very little achiote is gathered, but in 1900 Ecuador exported 38,120 pounds, valued at \$1,620, and can produce 200,000 pounds annually—even more if the demand warrants. The seeds are the part exported, being shipped in bags containing 150 pounds. The present price f. o. b. Guayaquil is 2½ cents per pound, with no export duty imposed. The only exporter of achiote is Miguel E. Seminario, of Guayaquil, who is the owner of the large grove mentioned.

Other Plants Yielding Dyes.

Cascol (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) is the local name of a tree growing in the coastal districts of Ecuador, the pods of which contain black seeds about the size of a pea. From the seeds is extracted a strong, permanent reddish-brown dye much used by the Indians and in the smaller tanneries for coloring and tanning hides and skins.

A permanent black is obtained from the nut within the alligator pear, called locally aguacate and avocado (*Persea gratissima*), which grows abundantly in Ecuador.

Chanche (*Coriaria thymifolia*) is a shrub whose berries yield a very good black dye.

Anil (*Indigofera anil*) is a very hardy shrub growing luxuriantly in the driest coastal lands; it yields the richest blue dye, much used by Indians, but produces less pulp than *I. tinctoria* of India.

It has been stated that dragon's blood (*Croton sanguifluum*) is very plentiful on both slopes of the Andes.

Tocte is the local name of the nut of the indiginous black-walnut tree, which is here called the nogál. Its dye is similar to that supplied by its American congener.

Mangle (*Rhizophora mangle*) furnishes the bark locally used for coloring and tanning hides.

Colcas is a bush of the Andean plateau producing a yellow dye, and chilca is a similar plant that colors brown. The following are local names of dye-producing plants, further data being unobtainable at present: Romerillo, rubia, rumibarba, yuquilla, and sani.

[The name of an agent supplying South American dyestuff material may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branches. Refer to File No. 66634.]

GOLD AND OTHER MINING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Transvaal, Aug. 20.]

Statistics contained in the annual report of the Government Mining Engineer of the Union of South Africa for 1914 just issued by the Department of Mines and Industries are eloquent in their portrayal of the magnitude of the world's greatest gold industry, found in the Transvaal, of which Johannesburg is the headquarters and dominating center, as it is likewise the largest city and the commercial, industrial, and financial metropolis of the Union of South Africa.

While the discovery of gold in South Africa dates back to the year 1868, the gold fields of the Transvaal as now developed and known were not really brought to light until 1884, since which time, except during the partial suspension of operations in the war period (1900-1902), there has been a steady and substantial increase in the output, until it now constitutes between 38 and 39 per cent of the world's gold production. From a beginning of about 2,375 fine ounces produced from these fields in 1884, valued at \$50,000, the output for the year 1913 amounted to \$181,883,262, while the gold production of the Transvaal from the inception of the industry in 1884 to the close of the year 1914 reached the stupendous total of 102,830,226 ounces, of the value of \$2,125,663,195.

It is a singular fact that in the entire Union of South Africa, embracing the Provinces of the Transvaal, Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Natal, the Transvaal is the only gold-producing section worthy of mention discovered up to this time. As proof of this it need only be stated that of the total gold production of the Union for 1914, all but 1,746 ounces were produced in the Transvaal.

Gold Output for Last Year—The World's Production.

The output of gold in the Transvaal for 1914, owing to strikes and other disturbances, fell short of that for 1913 by 404,014 fine ounces, the total being 8,394,322 ounces, amounting in value to \$173,559,975. Judged from the returns for the first six months of the present year, however, the gold yield for 1915 will equal, if not surpass, that of 1913. Of the total Transvaal gold production for 1914, the Witwatersrand area was responsible for 8,033,570 fine ounces, amounting to \$166,066,568.

The following table, prepared by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, shows the approximate gold output of the world during 1914:

Countries.	Value.	Percent- age of total.	Countries.	Value.	Percent- age of total.
Transvaal	\$173,189,002	38.3	Canada	\$16,351,440	3.7
United States	92,463,500	20.4	India	11,387,610	2.5
Australasia	50,168,748	11.1	West Africa	8,404,445	1.9
Russia	26,035,775	5.8	Other countries	38,932,000	8.6
Mexico	17,519,400	3.9			
Rhodesia	17,422,070	3.8	Total	451,874,990	100.0

Features of Transvaal Gold Production.

According to the annual report of the Union Department of Mines and Industries, the ore milled by Transvaal mining concerns for the year 1914 amounted to 26,704,403 tons, of which all but 24,944 tons

was produced by the mines, the small remainder being from reef diggings. A total of 9,901 stamps and 306 tube mills were worked during December, 1914, as compared with 9,579 and 290, respectively, during December, 1913. The average ore value per ton milled, including the estimated fine-gold contents of by-products sold or shipped by mines, was for the year \$6.47. The average percentage of waste sorted from rock hoisted on all the Transvaal producing gold mines was 9.26 per cent in December, 1914. The number of producing gold mines in the Transvaal at the end of December, 1914, was 86, on which were employed 21,743 white and 176,669 colored laborers.

Of the total number of persons in the service of mines and allied concerns of all kinds engaged in mining operations within the Union of South Africa in December, 1914, amounting to 244,261, the gold-mining industry employed 200,342, or 82 per cent, the remainder being divided among the diamond, coal-mining, base-mineral, and miscellaneous mining industries of the Union.

Expenditures for salaries and wages by mines and allied concerns within the Union of South Africa for 1914 amounted to \$80,386,199. Of this amount the gold-mining industry accounts for \$61,296,306, the diamond-mining industry for \$10,017,028, the coal-mining industry for \$4,826,701, base minerals for \$1,796,603, and miscellaneous for \$2,449,547. Of the amount expended in the gold-mining industry the Transvaal is responsible for \$61,260,556.

Stores Consumed by Gold and Other Mines.

During the year under review machinery and stores of the value of \$59,535,934 were consumed by the mining industry of the Union. The distribution of these amounts among the various Provinces and classes of concerns is shown in the following table. Of this amount the gold-mining industry accounts for \$50,013,433; the diamond-mining industry, \$4,717,219; the coal-mining industry, \$3,129,817; base-mineral industry, \$1,630,107:

Provinces.	Gold mines, including reef diggers and alluvial diggers.	Metal-lurgical works and tailings works.	Diamond mines.	Coal mines.	Base-mineral mines, other than coal.	Works (lime, flint, and gypsum).	Total.
Transvaal	\$40,899,799	\$154,238	\$939,234	\$1,668,588	\$727,747	\$193,647	\$53,583,253
Cape Colony	846	.....	2,597,751	44,231	688,786	802	3,332,426
Orange Free State	2,369	.....	1,178,940	246,347	.....	6,170	1,433,646
Natal	6,058	.....	.....	1,170,541	3,674	6,136	1,186,409
Total	49,909,092	154,238	4,715,935	3,129,707	1,420,207	206,756	59,535,934

Future Gold Prospect.

As already noted, the gold output for the first six months of this year (1915) shows a big increase over the corresponding period of last year. Furthermore, plans are being carried forward for a greatly increased output from the Far East Rand—a section as yet untapped. The Springs property, with an initial capacity of 30,000 tons, is expected to start producing next year, while at the Government Areas a new milling plant, representing an increase of 50,000 tons monthly, will also be in operation before the close of next year.

Other prospective plants include one each at Benoi, New Modderfontein, and Geduld, so that in 1917 it is thought these five companies may be crushing an additional 160,000 tons monthly.

The Diamond Production—Output by Provinces.

The two principal diamond mines of South Africa—the De Beers, at Kimberley, and the Premier, near Pretoria—both closed down very shortly after the outbreak of the war, as did most of the smaller properties, owing to the collapse of the diamond market, and up to the date of this report neither of these companies has resumed operations. As a result, the diamond production for 1914 was only about one-half of the previous year's output, being 2,801,016 carats, valued at \$26,703,429, as compared with 5,163,546 carats and a value of \$54,438,495 for 1913.

The production for the year of the four most important diamond-mining companies was: Premier mine, 1,097,238 carats, valued at \$4,929,190; De Beers (five mines), 1,225,436 carats, valued at \$14,859,993; New Jagersfontein, 177,623 carats, valued at \$2,773,631; Koffyfontein, 53,201 carats, valued at \$562,143. The grand total for these four leading companies was 2,553,497 carats, valued at \$23,206,425.

Following is a table showing the diamond output (mine and alluvial), by Provinces, for 1913 and 1914:

Provinces.	1913			1914		
	Mine stones.	Alluvial stones.	Total.	Mine stones.	Alluvial stones.	Total.
Transvaal.....	\$11,280,609	\$1,988,695	\$13,269,304	\$4,948,704	\$708,318	\$5,655,022
Cape Colony.....	30,589,733	3,453,564	34,043,297	15,161,880	2,085,339	17,247,225
Orange Free State.....	8,100,567	9,323	8,115,690	3,786,185	14,993	3,801,178
Total.....	49,976,909	5,451,382	55,428,491	23,896,775	2,808,650	26,703,425

Silver Production—The Coal Industry.

There are no silver mines working in the Union, the output of 890,782 fine ounces, valued at \$498,674, representing the silver contained in the gold bullion. No silver was returned from base-metal ores.

The value of the coal production for 1914 for the Union of South Africa showed a slight gain over that of the preceding year, the total value of the sales amounting to \$10,992,914, as compared with \$10,903,186 for 1913. The Transvaal and Natal Provinces are the largest producers of coal, the Transvaal sales for 1914 amounting to \$5,600,000 and those of Natal to \$4,311,324, while the value of the Orange Free State output was a little under \$1,000,000. The sum realized on the coal product of the Cape Colony was only a little in excess of \$150,000.

Base-Mineral Output.

The output of copper in the Union for 1914 amounted to a little under 30,000 tons, of the value of \$3,369,345, as compared with 18,383 tons, valued at \$2,471,481, in 1913. The Transvaal produced 957 tons, valued at \$1,558,871, and the Cape Province 14,368 tons,

of the value of \$1,810,474. The Messina (Transvaal) Development Co. was the only producer shipping copper from the Transvaal during the year. The concentrating plant on this mine treated 76,286 tons of ore during the year, the marketable product obtained being 14,258 tons, assaying 38.46 per cent of pure metal, and 5,111 tons of smelted ore, giving 863,750 tons of matte, assaying 58.06 per cent of copper. The mine also produced 120 tons of middlings, assaying 13 per cent, and 25,050 tons of blister, assaying 96 per cent of copper. In the Cape Province the mining of copper ore is carried out in Namaqualand by the Cape Copper Co. and the Namaqua Copper Co.

Practically all the tin produced in the Union of South Africa is the product of the Transvaal, nine tin mines having contributed to the production for the year. An average of 62 stamps were at work over the year and 129,377 tons of ore were crushed by these and other milling appliances. The output of tin concentrates amounted to 3,521 tons, assaying on an average 66.25 per cent of tin. The total output of tin in the Union for 1914 was 3,429 tons, valued at \$1,515,383. Of this total the Transvaal produced 3,386 tons, valued at \$1,495,606; the remainder of 43 tons, valued at \$19,996, was the product of the Cape Province.

THEORY OF LEAST SQUARES IN TRIANGULATION.

The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey issued a publication dealing with the application of the theory of least squares to the adjustment of triangulation. It has not been prepared with the idea of displacing the textbooks in dealing with the subject of least squares, but of supplementing these in the special field of triangulation. It will be of much use to one who is beginning work of this kind. Concrete examples of adjustments are given, ranging from some of the easiest to those that are more difficult. The book deals principally with office computations, but it will also be found useful to those in charge of field work.

A development is given, expressed in the symbolism employed in the office of the Survey at the present time, for the condition equations necessary to effect the closure in geographic positions of a loop. A need for this has been felt for some time past. A method of adjustment by the variation of the geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) of the various points has been developed and applied to the adjustment of several figures. This is a method which has not before been used in the United States, although something similar is regularly employed in Canada.

At the end of the publication there is given a new development of the formulas for the computation of differences of elevation from the observations of zenith distances. These formulas take into account some of the effects due to the lengths and heights of the lines that were not taken into consideration in the development previously in use in the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The volume is published in octavo size and is illustrated. It is Serial No. 9, Special Publication No. 28, and may be obtained free of charge by application to the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Woolen blankets, No. 2713.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until November 1, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kans., 1,000 woolen blankets. Specifications together with further information may be had on application to the Washington office.

Construction work, No. 2714.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 6, 1915, for the construction of a magazine building at the Naval Proving Ground, Indian Head, Md. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the above office.

Dredging and rock removing work, No. 2715.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Engineer, P. O. Drawer 45, Jacksonville, Fla., until November 8, 1915, for dredging and rock removal at Miami Harbor and St. Lucie Inlet, Fla. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

Construction work, No. 2716.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches), of a one-story and basement stone-faced building of 7,478 square feet ground area, fireproof construction, composition roof, for the United States post office at Elyria, Ohio. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the custodian at Elyria, Ohio, or at the Washington office.

Installation of mail chutes, No. 2717.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 8, 1915, for installing two mail chutes in the United States post office and courthouse at Denver, Colo. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the Superintendent of Construction at Denver, Colo., or at the Washington office.

Medical supplies, No. 2718.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, U. S. Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until October 22, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the depot amyl nitris, argenti nitras in crystals, ipecacuanha, chlorinated lime, magnesii sulphas, morphinae sulphas, potasii iodidum, and sodii salicylas.

Construction work, No. 2719.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 13, 1915, for constructing two officers' quarters, at Naval Station, Key West, Fla. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the above office, or to the commandant of the naval station named.

Bacon, No. 2720.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, U. S. Army, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until October 20, 1915, for furnishing and delivering on or before December 20, 1915, about 140,304 pounds of bacon.

Medical supplies, No. 2721.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, U. S. Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until October 27, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the depot empty boxes, funnels, lantern globes, glass salt and pepper shakers, 3-pint tins, and 2-quart round tins.

Construction work, No. 2722.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1915, for constructing a marine railway at the Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Proposals are invited on separate component parts of the complete railway. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the above office or to the commandant of the naval station named.

Repair work, No. 2723.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Lighthouse Inspector, Baltimore, Md., until October 28, 1915, for furnishing all labor and materials and docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing light vessel No. 80. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

Landscape gardening, No. 2724.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 3, 1915, for sodding and seeding, planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal building at Plymouth, Mass. Drawings and specifications may be had upon application to the custodian of the building or at the Washington office.

ENGLAND TO BUY JAPANESE COTTON GOODS.

[London Times for Sept. 28.]

An interesting experiment is about to be made by obtaining from Japan certain dress goods of the kind formerly imported from the Continent. John Howell & Son were the first wholesalers to consider the question on a large scale, and sent out a member of their firm to Japan some months ago to visit the great manufacturing centers. The result has been that fabric gloves and cotton wear have been purchased, and a consignment may be expected in a short time. The centers from which these goods are coming are Osaka (the Manchester of Japan), Kobe, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Yokohama.

The small Japanese fabric gloves were not at first a commercial success, but they were quickly adapted to the larger hands of Europe, and now compete very favorably with those of European make. The cotton underwear is not of very high grade and is not trimmed, but is said to be good of its kind. It is made in both plain and fleecy qualities.

So far the Japanese have done nothing in the woolen industry, nor are their hose or skin gloves a success. Their manufactures will be priced much lower, in spite of the American machinery they have installed everywhere, owing to the great cheapness of labor. Their factories, to the more exclusive of which very few Europeans have ever penetrated, are lighted with electric light and well served by railways.

COFFEE SHIPMENTS FROM SANTOS, BRAZIL.

[Consul Charles L. Latham, Santos, Sept. 14.]

A comparative statement has been prepared showing the exportations of coffee through the port of Santos for the past 10 years. The figures are given in bags of 132 pounds each. The amounts are:

Year.	July to December.	January to June.	Total for crop year.
1914-15	4,500,985	5,140,714	9,641,699
1913-14	7,374,329	4,004,016	11,308,345
1912-13	5,886,120	2,934,279	8,820,392
1911-12	6,066,284	3,057,401	9,143,685
1910-11	6,803,177	2,637,318	9,440,495
1909-10	10,242,258	35,957	10,278,215
1908-9	6,064,239	3,327,628	9,381,867
1907-8	5,572,395	2,942,847	8,515,244
1906-7	7,884,637	5,980,476	13,874,113
1905-6	4,901,995	2,288,237	7,280,162

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Chemicals, No. 18801.—A manufacturer of pharmaceutical preparations in Italy has informed an American consular officer that he desires to receive price lists and samples of chemicals for use as basic elements of their preparations and hypodermic solutions in ampullas. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Italian port, if possible; otherwise f. o. b. New York.

Novelties, No. 18802.—An American consular officer in France reports that a man in his district desires to secure the representation of American manufacturers and exporters of novelties of all kinds.

Textiles, No. 18803.—A firm in Italy has informed an American consular officer that it desires to purchase textiles of various kinds, samples of which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. If possible, quotations should be made c. i. f. port in Italy. Correspondence should be in Italian.

Office supplies, No. 18804.—An American consular officer in France transmits the names of business men in his district who desire to represent American manufacturers or exporters of office supplies.

Cotton goods, etc., No. 18805.—The Bureau has received a report from an American consular officer in France stating that a firm of manufacturers' agents in Tunis desires to establish business relations with American manufacturers of cotton goods, similar to the samples which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. The firm in question also desires to communicate with American importers of Tunisian products, such as sheep and goat skins, olive oil, alfa, cork, wool, sponges, and dates. Correspondence in French is preferred.

Pencils, pens, etc., No. 18806.—The Bureau has received from an American consular officer in France the names of various dealers in his district who desire to represent American manufacturers or exporters of pencils, pens, etc.

Insulated cable and wire, No. 18807.—The Bureau has been informed by a business man in this country that a correspondent in Greece desires quotations on insulated switchboard cable for telephone apparatus and single insulated wire, specifications of which may be examined upon application to the Bureau's informant.

Acid phosphates, No. 18808.—A letter has been received by the Bureau from a business man in Canada who desires the names and addresses of firms which manufacture acid phosphates containing less than 10 per cent of calcium, to be used in foods.

General representation, No. 18809.—The commercial agent in charge of the branch office of the Bureau in Chicago transmits a letter from a man in Norway who desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of merchandise. The man states that he will act as commission agent or buy for his own account.

Asphalt, No. 18810.—The Bureau has received a letter from a man in Cuba who desires to learn the prices of Cuban asphalt in this country and to what interests he could make proposals relative to an asphalt mine.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 245 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 19 1915

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COAL FOR THE NETHERLANDS.

[Cablegram from Minister Henry van Dyke, The Hague, Netherlands, Oct. 15.]

Coal, selling prices Rotterdam, steam \$7, gas \$10; ocean freight, \$9.50 per metric ton; imports materially reduced from previous years. Netherlands Oversea Trust will receive shipments for strictly Dutch firms. There is a so-called coal bureau which is designed to distribute to small consumers.

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCE.

Consul Maddin Summers, of São Paulo, Brazil, reports that he is leaving his post for the United States on leave of absence about the last of October. He will be in the United States until the latter part of December; his address will be care of Consular Bureau, Department of State, Washington, D. C.

BANK OF CHINA TO INCREASE CAPITAL.

It is officially announced in Peking, says the National Review of China, that the Bank of China is to increase its capital by \$20,000,000 (or about \$10,000,000 in U. S. currency), half of this coming from the sales of Government property, the other half to be obtained by public subscription. This increase will make the bank one of the most important and largest in capital in the Far East.

BOUNTIFUL AMERICAN CROPS.

The estimates of the Department of Agriculture show record crops in the United States of wheat, oats, barley, and hay, and a corn crop closely approaching the record. The returns indicate a production of approximately three billion bushels of corn, one and a half billion bushels of oats, one billion bushels of wheat, almost a quarter billion bushels of barley, and a hundred million tons of hay, if the twenty million estimated tons of wild hay, a crop not heretofore reported upon, be included.

EXPORTS OF CHEESE, BUTTER, AND BUTTER FAT REVIVE.

Cheese, butter, and other butter fats are again becoming important factors in our export trade after a long period of comparative inactivity. Fifteen or 20 years ago the United States was selling abroad between 20,000,000 and 30,000,000 pounds of butter, from 50,000,000 to 80,000,000 pounds of cheese, and from 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 pounds of imitation butter annually. In later years, however, exports of this class decreased in a marked degree, and in the fiscal year 1914 had fallen far below the quantities named. In the year just ended there was a distinct revival in all these lines, with totals closely approximating the high levels touched in the decade from 1890 to 1900.

The large gains made by domestic dairy products and butter substitutes are well illustrated by figures published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in the June "Summary of foreign commerce." Butter, usually averaging about 3,500,000 pounds annually in our export trade, in 1915 went to nearly 10,000,000 pounds. During this period imports of butter were reduced by more than one-half, falling from a little less than 8,000,000 pounds in 1914 to less than 4,000,000 pounds last year.

American cheese, running at about 2,500,000 pounds a year, went to 54,000,000 pounds in the fiscal year 1915. Here also, as in the case of butter, the trade balance was transferred to the export side, for the year's imports of cheese last year totaled only 50,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 13,750,000 pounds from the total for 1914.

Exports of condensed milk, usually exported in sums valued at between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 annually, in 1915 rose to \$3,000,000 in value, the quantity (37,000,000 pounds) being double that of 1914.

Imitation butter contains, in addition to oleomargarine oil, some butter fat. The exports of this article also doubled, rising from 2,500,000 pounds in 1914 to 5,125,000 pounds last year.

England has become our largest foreign market for butter, cheese, and condensed milk, having taken 3,333,000 pounds of butter, out of a total export of 10,000,000 pounds; 48,500,000 pounds of cheese, out of a total export of 54,000,000 pounds; and 4,000,000 pounds of condensed milk, out of a total export of 37,000,000 pounds. Canada, Cuba, Panama, Australia, and Venezuela also take considerable quantities of American butter; Panama and the West Indies are important markets for our cheese; while Cuba, Belgium, the Netherlands, China, Japan, Hongkong, Russia, Chosen, Panama, and Brazil take large amounts of American condensed milk.

These exports, while important, represent a very small proportion of the annual products of the 60,000,000 cattle on American farms, valued at more than \$2,334,000,000. As long ago as 1909, the latest period covered by the national census, we produced 1,619,000,000 pounds of butter, 321,000,000 pounds of cheese, and 5,814,000,000 gallons of milk, while the quantity of oleomargarine on which internal-revenue tax was paid in 1914 aggregated 142,000,000 pounds.

The Eighth National Apple Show will be held in Spokane, Wash., the week of November 15.

SOUTH WALES TRADE NOTES.

[Consul W. L. Jenkins, detailed as vice consul at Swansea, Wales, Sept. 30.]

Lace-Making Classes.

The director of the Swansea Arts & Crafts Committee reported September 28 that 24 students had joined the lace-making class which had a Belgian refugee as a teacher. The chairman stated that he thought "the Belgians were going to leave an enduring mark on Swansea in that direction, and the more the interest could be encouraged the better."

New Port Talbot Industry.

The Port Talbot district has acquired still another industry, that of converting the mountain of old iron slag at Cwmavon into tarred slag macadam, which is now recognized as good material for road surfaces, both for economical wear and the prevention of dust. A large new plant with two breakers, capacious bunkers with drying and mixing machinery, has been erected at the slag tips and work has already commenced. The Cwmavon Slag Co., Cardiff, are the proprietors.

Steel Workers' Advance in Wages.

A joint meeting of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Makers, Mechanics, and Others' Sliding Scale Committee was held September 25 to receive the auditor's award for the three months ended August 31, 1915, the result being that wages payable to the workmen at the Associated Works will be advanced by 10.5 per cent from October 1, 1915.

Coal-Export Licenses.

It has been stated by the Coal Exports Committee that the names of steamers need not appear in applications for licenses to export coal to France and French possessions, or be subsequently sent to the Board of Trade department, and will not be inserted in licenses for such shipments. All licenses, except general ones, are valid for one shipment only. The shippers must in all cases submit to the local customs the names of vessels by which they propose to make a shipment as soon as they are known to them.

Increase in Prices.

The Swansea branch of the Dairymen's Association have decided to raise the price of milk to 10 cents per quart from October 3 in consequence of the shortage of supplies, increase in the price of food-stuffs, and increase in manufacture of butter.

An official notice has been placed in the public telephone boxes stating that the call fee will be increased on October 1 by 2 cents.

The Swansea Grocers' Association decided on September 28 to advance immediately the price of all articles affected by the recently proposed budget pro rata to the increased duty.

Catalogues sent by American exporters to the consulate at Karachi, India, are reported to have been received with circular letters folded and placed between the leaves. Consul James Oliver Laing states that the letters often stick between the leaves in the hot, moist climate of the Arabian Sea district, and are sometimes not found when the catalogues are filed.

RUSSIAN JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Aug. 31.]

Of the 29 Russian commercial banks the shares of which are priced at the Petrograd Exchange, 24 paid good dividends in 1914. Only three banks have not declared dividends on account of large sums having been written off. The 10 land banks registered in the bulletin of the Petrograd Stock Exchange gave the same dividends as in the preceding year. Of the 13 gas companies and electrotechnical concerns, 10 were paying dividends, while 2 concerns had not yet concluded the annual accounts. Only 1 concern passed its dividend.

The profit obtained as well as the dividend paid by the oil companies proved considerable. Of the 21 oil companies, the shares of which are quoted on the Petrograd market, 13 companies paid very high dividends, 7 concerns preferred to place the profit obtained at the disposal of the administration of the companies, while the results of 1 company have not yet been finally ascertained. The average dividend of the Russian oil companies that have published their reports on 1914 is found to be 8.7 per cent, against 17.7 per cent for 1913, and 14.6 per cent for 1912.

The cement industry was placed in a difficult position in consequence of the war, but was able to conclude the year 1914 with more or less favorable results. Of 11 joint-stock companies engaged in this industry, 6 concerns paid dividends. Four companies were not in a position to do this, while the financial results of 1 have not been finally ascertained.

Twenty-one metallurgical and mechanical works were able to pay out satisfactory dividends. The remaining metallurgical companies conclude their business year on July 1, and the profit secured and dividend to be paid in 1914-15 are not yet known. However, according to preliminary information, the majority of these concerns will pay their dividends at the same rate as in the preceding year.

AMERICAN PURCHASES FROM CEYLON.

[Consul Walter A. Leonard, Colombo, Sept. 4.]

Declared exports from Ceylon to the United States for the first half of 1915 totaled \$5,837,265, compared with \$5,818,950 in the 1914 half-year. Nearly every article showed a decrease, while raw rubber increased by \$1,184,606. Desiccated coconut showed the greatest loss, dropping from \$352,388 in value in 1914 to \$51,004 in 1915. The six leading articles of export to the United States from Ceylon, valued at more than \$100,000 in 1915, were:

Articles.	First half year.		Articles.	First half year.	
	1914	1915		1914	1915
Rubber.....	\$2, 538, 548	\$3, 722, 154	Cinnamon.....	\$37, 214	\$105, 145
Tea.....	945, 229	732, 347	Miscellaneous.....	519, 496	183, 961
Coconut oil.....	1, 145, 178	522, 578			
Plumbago.....	520, 643	445, 055	Total.....	5, 818, 950	5, 837, 265
Citronella oil.....	112, 642	127, 025			

CHANGES IN FOREIGN TRADE OF SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 8.]

The entire volume of Spain's business during the first six months of 1915 amounted in value to \$215,640,208, of which \$102,552,422 represented imports and \$113,087,786 exports. The total value of the exports and imports for these six months was greater than that for the corresponding period in 1914 by nearly \$23,400,000. There was a decrease of about \$13,320,000 in the import of foreign products and an increase in the export of Spanish products of about \$27,900,000. Among the imports in which the falling off was most noticeable were manufactured articles, \$17,280,000 less than during the corresponding period of the year previous; food products and live animals, \$4,140,000 and \$540,000, respectively.

This was offset by an increase in raw materials imported by \$8,820,000 over the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Increase in Exports Chiefly in Manufactured Articles.

The increase in exports was chiefly in manufactured articles, which amounted to nearly \$36,360,000 more than during the 1914 period. The food products exported increased by about \$540,000, while the export of raw materials decreased by more than \$8,100,000. Of the manufactured articles exported, the greatest increases were in the cotton and woollen industry. The amounts were:

Wool Items.	1914	1915	Cotton Items.	1914	1915
Woolen yarn.....	\$38,899	\$457,670	Raw cotton.....	\$89,045	\$636,868
Blankets.....	5,573	6,509,470	Cotton yarn.....	262,137	881,225
Woolen knit goods.....	15,468	2,921,973	White cotton goods.....	254,884	3,174,818
Pure woolen cloth.....	344,624	1,981,030	Colored cotton goods.....	2,115,376	3,681,337
Cotton and woolen cloth..	96,150	1,948,282	Canton flannel.....	7,313	2,036,421
Fabrics of pure wool.....	58,963	1,814,265	Cotton knit goods.....	926,068	2,976,953
Fabrics of cotton and wool.	8,811	119,834	All other cotton manufac-		
tures.....			tures.....	231,448	987,234
Total.....	1,656,933	407,617			
			Total.....	3,886,271	14,574,888
Total.....	2,225,421	18,960,121			

The export of manufactured iron for the six months' period increased from \$171,704 worth in 1914 to \$2,728,294 worth in 1915. The export of chemical products for industrial, pharmaceutical, and toilet purposes increased from \$3,517,040 to \$3,924,334. There were also notable increases in the values of leather goods, tanned skins, and footwear exported.

FLEECE UNDERWEAR FOR IRELAND.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Sept. 23.]

A Belfast business man, in a letter to this consulate, states that there is at the moment an excellent opportunity for American manufacturers of fleece underwear (such as ladies' knickers, petticoats, and drawers, and men's fleece shirts and pants) to extend their trade in this market. He says that these goods were formerly imported largely from the Continent, and that present local stocks of these garments are 50 to 75 per cent below the average.

[The address of the business man referred to, also a list of the principal buyers of fleece underwear in Belfast, may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 67276.]

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**AUSTRALIA.**

[Sydney Herald, Sept. 8.]

Railway Construction in New South Wales.

A batch of railway works have been handed over by the State Government of New South Wales to Norton Griffiths & Co. for construction under their contract. These are in addition to the harbor works at Coffs Harbor, which were handed over on July 1.

The following are the railway lines which, the premier announces, will now be proceeded with under the agreement:

North Coast Railway, section 6—Kempsey to Macksville (partly constructed).
North Coast Railway, section 7—Macksville to Coffs Harbor (portion Macksville to Raleigh).

North Coast Railway, section 8—Coffs Harbor to Glenreagh.

Glenreagh to Dorrigo.

Stockinbingal to Forbes, second section Naweenda to Forbes.

Wagga to Tumbarumba, second section Humula to Tumbarumba.

Dubbo to Werris Creek, second section Binnaway to Werris Creek.

Broken Hill to Menindie (partly constructed).

Condobolin to Euabalong (partly constructed).

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Tasmania, Aug. 31.]

New Railway Stations.

The Government of Tasmania has appropriated \$146,000 for a new passenger depot at Hobart. It will be a 2-story stone and brick building and work will begin as soon as several old buildings can be removed. Upon completion of the passenger depot here the Government will construct a similar building in Launceston.

CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 14.]

Bank Finances Building of Workers' Houses.

The Caja de Ahorros (National Savings Bank) of Valparaiso has undertaken to finance the building of a large number of small houses for workingmen in Valparaiso and Viña del Mar. In Valparaiso a site of 20,000 square yards has already been chosen for this purpose on the hill called Las Monjas, at the end of Avenida Francia. The building company will undertake the street paving in the new section, the specifications calling for asphalt streets and sidewalks. Work on the houses should be commenced in the coming month of October (1915).

The houses will be of three different sizes, but all will be two stories high. The interior height of the ground floor of each will be 10 feet 5 inches and of the upper floor 10 feet. The beams, supports, and roof timbers of each house will be of oak. The interior walls will be of adobe, and the exterior of brick, faced with cement. The flooring used will be tongue and grooved poplar or laurel. The type of roofing used will be first grade, of galvanized corrugated iron.

A house classed as "Type A" will cost about \$2,000 in United States currency, to be paid for in installments of \$417 on the signing of the contract, \$333 when the house is roofed, \$250 on its delivery, the balance in 21 years, with payments of \$13.33 monthly for the first six years and five months, and \$5 monthly for the balance of the period.

A house of the "Type B" class will cost about \$2,500, and the purchaser will pay \$500 on the signing of the contract, \$417 when

the house is roofed, \$333 on its delivery, and the balance in 21 years, with payments of \$16.66 per month for the first six years and five months and \$6.33 per month for the balance of the period.

A house of the "Type C" class will cost \$2,834, and the purchaser will pay \$583.33 on the signing of the contract, \$500 when the house is roofed, \$333.33 on its delivery, and the balance in 21 years, with payments of \$18.83 monthly for the first six years and five months and \$7.16 monthly for the balance of the period.

[The name of the contractor who will undertake the construction work on these houses may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67133.]

ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Sept. 6.]

United States Supplies Materials for Guayaquil Sanitation Work.

The contract for the sanitation of Guayaquil was signed at Quito on January 5, 1914. Toward the end of the following February J. G. White & Co.'s engineers arrived and commenced preliminary investigations for the domestic water supply. During May, construction engineers arrived and proceeded with the erection of the plant and equipment necessary for the works. By the end of 1914, all surveys connected with the drinking-water supply and a part in connection with the sewerage work had been completed.

The first consignment of pipes arrived in January, 1915, and work was immediately started, the contractor laying pipes for the city distribution system at the same time that work on the 7,000,000-gallon service reservoir, situated on Santa Ana Hill to the north of the city, was begun. At present 60 per cent of the distribution system in the city is finished, and the service reservoir is 30 per cent finished; this system is expected to be in operation in about two years.

Simultaneously with the waterworks, the company is building a new wall along the river front and making a rock-and-earth fill behind it, reclaiming a strip of land averaging about 200 feet wide. Work on the sewerage system, and paving, will not be commenced until the waterworks are nearly completed.

A large part of the material for the works is being purchased in the United States, the remainder in England.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

[Consul General John P. Bray, Singapore, Straits Settlements, Aug. 24.]

New Wharf Accommodation at Port Swettenham.

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—As explained in Supplement to COMMERCE REPORTS 56b, for March 4, 1915, Swettenham is the principal port of entry to the Federated Malay States and handles a tonnage exceeding 300,000 tons annually. The railway from Port Swettenham to Kuala Lumpur, the capital city, traverses large rubber estates.]

The new wharf facilities at Port Swettenham include mainly a steel compound screw pile wharf 1,200 feet long and 50 feet wide, giving a depth of water for vessels lying alongside of about 30 feet at low tide. Connection is made to the shore by five gangways at right angle to the wharf, at a distance of about 200 feet apart. The wharf and gangways are laid with a double track, the respective tracks being connected at the head of each gangway by turntables.

The whole of the transport equipment, including turntables, cranes, capstans, etc., will be electrically driven; the power being obtained

from a power station shortly to be constructed at an estimated cost of \$120,000 (United States currency). Six godowns have been built on shore opposite the wharf with 63,840 square feet floor space; these are of steel frame and corrugated iron sheet, constructed on reinforced concrete pile foundations, the length of piles being 40 feet.

New Passenger Station—Double Tracking on Singapore Line.

It is proposed to construct a new passenger station with all conveniences, which will be connected to the wharf by an overhead foot-bridge. Ample siding accommodation is being provided to deal with all possible traffic for some time. The foreshore protection wall, the first length of which is now under construction, will have a total length of 3,840 feet, the height being 20 feet. The whole of the work is in reinforced concrete on the Kahn system, the total approximate cost being \$200,000.

It is proposed to double track the railroad between Bukit Timah and Tank Road, renewing and extending the bridges and culverts. The design for the new bridges has not yet been decided.

New Depot and Hotel.

The reconstruction provides for the entire remodeling of the station yard, a new depot building, and an adjoining hotel. The new depot has five platform lines, two island platforms, and one main platform, each 600 feet long, and off the latter are offices for the officials, waiting rooms, dining room, etc. Access to the inside platforms is made by two subways, one for use of first and second class passengers, and the other for third-class passengers and baggage. Each platform is covered by a steel and corrugated-iron sheet roof supported on steel stanchions.

The hotel adjoins the depot offices and provides for 17 bedrooms, each room having a separate veranda, beneath which is a bathroom, etc., and accommodation for visitors' servants. Spacious lounges are provided in addition to a large veranda running the whole length of the building. An electric elevator conveys visitors from the depot entrance to the hotel. Access from the streets to the depot is by a 30-foot roadway terminating at the building itself in a covered way 300 feet long, thus affording shelter to passengers and baggage. The service also includes a generating station for the supply of electricity for lighting station yard, buildings, and hotel.

The drainage is dealt with through a septic tank situated some distance from the buildings.

INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Sept. 9.]

Waterworks Construction in Southern India.

There is considerable waterworks construction in southern India at present owing to new enterprises and also to the fact that municipalities or the Government have found it necessary to replace existing plants by new works. This will naturally involve the use of a quantity of steel pipe, and in at least one town, if reconstruction is carried out, the municipal council has decided to endeavor to obtain American pipes. This is at Bezwada, a railway junction at the head of the Krishna Delta. The town has expended a considerable amount on waterworks, but the system does not appear to have

given entire satisfaction, and newspapers state that this is because the suction pumps draw too much air, which is alleged to be due to cracks in the steel pipes connecting the wells in the bed of the river and the pump well. It is believed that the defective water supply will necessitate a replacement.

The most important water-supply scheme in contemplation at present in this part of India is that at Ootacamund, summer capital of the Madras Government. The sanitary board of this district has recommended three schemes to insure sufficient water supply for the region, and one of these has been sanctioned by the Government. The scheme will command the whole of the Richings Valley from the Coonoor Road at the Burnfoot Lake to Manjanakorai Village and from the railway bridge at Manjanakorai to the railway bridge at Lovedale. The total area covered will be 930 acres, in no part of which is there now a protected water supply, while on the Grant Duff Road, where there are several European residences, the supply is scanty in the dry season. The scheme comprises three reservoirs, formed by damming three perennial spring channels on the slopes of Elk Hill, which will be connected by pipes. As in the case of the Marlimund and Tiger Hill Reservoirs, the supply will only be for domestic purposes.

In Trichinopoly, an important railway center in Madras Presidency, the existing waterworks are to be replaced by new works. Recent boring in the bed of the Cauvery River shows that the wells for furnishing the city's water supply should be sunk to a much greater depth.

At Madura, a city in this Presidency which is showing much industrial development, plans are being considered for further improvement of the water supply, owing to the discovery of a subterranean spring with inexhaustible supply of water 2 miles up the river from the existing waterworks.

American manufacturers of steel pipes or supplies for waterworks interested in the foregoing could not, it is believed, successfully undertake to compete for these contracts by correspondence alone. An agent or representative who could give the matter personal attention would doubtless stand a good chance of getting the business if prices, etc., were favorable.

There are few firms in this region that make a specialty of handling steel pipes, but a list of those most likely to be interested is forwarded.

[The list may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file 67476.]

VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Sept. 25.]

Electric Lights for Barcelona.

The municipality of Barcelona has just signed a contract with Mr. R. J. Austin for the electric lighting of the city. The company which Mr. Austin represents is to furnish 200 street lights for which the city is to pay \$193 monthly. Lights will also be supplied to private parties at prices stipulated in the contract with the city. Address Mr. R. J. Austin, Barcelona, Anzoategui, Venezuela.

IMPORTS OF LAMPS INTO LATIN AMERICA.

The following table shows the total value of the imports of incandescent and other lamps into Latin-American countries from 1910 to 1914, inclusive, and the amounts received from Germany, Austria-Hungary, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States, according to the official returns of these countries.

[Uruguayan peso=\$1.034; Argentinian, \$0.965; Chilean, \$0.365; Mexican, \$0.498. Paper milreis, 1910-1913-32.44 cents; 1914=30.64 cents. £=10 sucres=\$4.8665. Bolivar=19.3 cents. Colon=46.5 cents.]

Countries, years, and articles.	Total imports.	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	Netherlands.	United Kingdom.	United States.
ARGENTINA.						
Incandescent lamps:	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
1910	597,357	324,417	8,515	96,582	38,784	65,883
1911	454,721	272,958	5,457	98,129	45,018	24,675
1912	441,288	229,140	10,535	72,615	32,181	88,800
1913	435,441	240,926	23,655	108,941	67,236	42,567
1914 ^a	257,350					
CHILE.						
Lamps:						
Iron and steel—						
1910	92,323	56,574			12,737	5,778
1911	113,568	85,912			14,248	8,636
1912	170,867	95,058		771	13,689	7,908
1913	106,077	73,995		124	16,304	10,780
1914	55,984	40,838		1,077	7,187	4,144
Other metals—						
1910	274,192	142,092			76,449	26,182
1911	353,238	203,175			97,764	23,632
1912	417,041	214,725			114,290	39,300
1913	397,738	217,693			96,363	33,214
1914	240,519	128,807		405	37,909	33,940
Electric hand lamps:						
1910	1,088	1,088				
1911	376	266			110	
1912	1,103	1,094			112	
1913	4	48				
1914	858	750				60
BRAZIL.						
Electric and electric-lighting apparatus:	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>
1910	9,761,634	2,401,121	20,628	14,108	1,788,954	4,625,363
1911	12,432,505	3,695,937	81,129	35,068	2,635,266	5,079,112
1912	14,867,282	4,251,435	109,147	75,718	1,760,080	6,368,801
1913 ^a	10,244,020					
1914 ^a	5,492,767					
Electric lamps:						
1913 ^a	1,471,271					
1914 ^a	596,918					
Lighthouses, illuminated buoys, etc.:						
1910	121,753					68,817
1911	375,010					50,490
1912	232,155	12,177				10,739
1913 ^a	162,827					
1914 ^a	162,356					
Lighting appliances:						
1910	1,554,044	781,310	22,168	113,203	290,821	152,796
1911	1,845,046	896,191	25,213	119,669	370,484	204,642
1912	1,439,512	650,575	19,493	10,843	330,719	187,442
1913 ^a	1,526,728					
1914 ^a						
Wagon and automobile lamps:						
1913 ^a	16,941					
1914 ^a	3,687					
Incandescent mantles (veos incandescentes):						
1913 ^a	126,351					
1914 ^a	122,073					
URUGUAY.						
Lamps, n. o. s.:	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>		<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
1910	16,539	11,673		12	1,065	1,822
1911	17,272	8,330			793	2,299

^a Provisional figures. Share of each country not available. ^b Not shown separately prior to 1913.

Countries, years, and articles.	Total im-ports.	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	Nether-lands.	United Kingdom.	United States.
PERU.						
Incandescent lamps:	£	£			£	£
1910	4,460	2,575			92	1,564
1911	6,102	3,545			203	2,085
1912	7,023	5,579			93	1,669
1913	8,161	4,671			282	2,963
ECUADOR.						
Lamps and accessories:	Sucres.	Sucres.			Sucres.	Sucres.
1910	15,666	5,175			880	7,795
1911	26,052	7,944			1,234	15,592
1912	27,010	9,124			1,343	13,409
CUBA.						
Electric lamps, glass:	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
1910	96,213	23,262	1,425	5,644	619	56,677
1911	125,301	41,345	1,304	1,807	423	64,395
1912	116,786	59,817	1,628	2,256	494	43,051
1913	138,964	75,594	2,193	9,959	188	44,345
1914	125,229	71,287	2,075	8,540	450	42,281
MEXICO.						
Electric incandescent lamp:	Pesos.	Pesos.	Pesos.	Pesos.	Pesos.	Pesos.
1910	704,912	274,796	25,198	169	26,417	360,045
1911	681,576	282,739	26,078	372	1,902	397,903
1912	647,476	183,280	11,335	2,528	550	441,923
VENEZUELA.						
Lamps and lanterns:	Bolivares.	Bolivares.	Bolivares.	Bolivares.	Bolivares.	Bolivares.
1914	184,328					
COSTA RICA.						
Lamps and accessories:	Colones.	Colones.	Colones.	Colones.	Colones.	Colones.
1912	20,119	5,697			849	12,678
PANAMA.						
Lamps:	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
1912	16,510	3,056			402	12,730
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.						
Lamps, lanterns, and parts:						
1911	1,697	106			19	1,553

The figures for Mexico and Venezuela are for the fiscal year ended June 30, while those for the other countries are by calendar years.

HORTICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, Sept. 27.]

Official estimates indicate a general fruit-crop shortage in southern France this year. These estimates are as follows: Olives, 40 per cent normal; almonds, 55 per cent; pears, apples, apricots, and peaches, 50 per cent; lemons, 80 per cent. It is probable, therefore, that there will be a good demand for American dried and evaporated fruit.

Conditions were more favorable for market-garden products, the production being about 70 per cent normal.

The local production of flowers is estimated at 60 per cent of the usual yield, and this represents an enormous loss to this district. Prices have also fallen, owing partly to the closing of several important foreign markets.

WAR PRICES IN STAVANGER, NORWAY.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Sept. 9.]

A salted herring costs the Stavanger housekeeper five times as much to-day as it did in July, 1914, before the European war began. Flour, salt, and sirup cost twice as much as before; meat a third more. Coal has advanced more than one-half, and coke has doubled in price. Ordinary clothing costs from 10 to 15 per cent more than formerly, while Norwegian wool, which is raised in great quantities in this district, has nearly doubled in price.

Especially has the question of the cost of milk caused discussion here recently. The price, which was already considered high before the war, when it was \$0.038 a quart, is now 5 cents. The regulation of this price is to be taken up by the food commission, which has established maximum prices for many commodities.

This section has undoubtedly the best sheep-raising land in Norway, and produces considerable quantities of both lamb and wool. The price of lamb last year ranged from about \$0.12 to \$0.146 a pound, according to quality. Now it ranges from \$0.17 to \$0.195. Native wool, which was formerly \$0.485, is now \$0.85 to \$0.97 per pound. Attempts have been made by this consulate to find a market for American wool, but prohibitive freight rates have prevented American competition, although Norway has since purchased wool from Argentina.

Increased Prices for Articles in Food Supply.

Rye, which is the most commonly used flour for bread making in Stavanger, was \$0.022 a pound last year, but is now \$0.048. Wheat flour has gone up from \$0.03 to \$0.051, and oatmeal from \$0.029 to \$0.055 a pound. Coffee is practically the only staple article of general consumption which has not changed in price during the war. A pound of chocolate or cacao costs \$0.024 more to-day than it did in July, 1914. Sugar has advanced from \$0.06 to \$0.085 a pound, and would undoubtedly go higher if this had not been set as a maximum price by the food commission. Sirup has gone from \$0.024 to 6 cents a pound, while salt has advanced from 12 to 24 cents per measure of 20 liters (18.16 quarts).

Fresh fruit is always expensive in Stavanger and is not so generally eaten as in America, apples, oranges, bananas, etc., being purchased by weight rather than by number. Prunes and raisins are much more generally eaten. These formerly ranged in price from \$0.085 to \$0.097, but are now \$0.146 a pound.

While apples are bought by weight, coal is bought by measure, the ordinary householder here purchasing it in small quantities. A bushel of coal has, during the past year, advanced from \$0.189 to \$0.292. There is an extra charge for delivery at the house. A bushel of coke, which formerly ranged in price from \$0.112 to \$0.122, now costs from \$0.236 to \$0.246. Petroleum, however, has advanced but little.

Housewives Urged to Practice Greater Economy.

The Stavanger Aftenblad is urging greater economy for housewives of the district. A greater use of potatoes, carrots, and kohlrabi, which are plentiful at this season, is suggested; also a more

general use of "blood foods." Much good, clean blood is wasted at the municipal slaughterhouse which, mixed with meal, might be made into sausages and other palatable dishes. The paper is getting out a cookbook for "blood-food dishes" which, it says, are "cheap and savory."

CANADIAN BANKING FIGURES FOR WAR YEAR.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Toronto, Oct. 2.]

To show the effect of a year of war on the banks of Canada, the Monetary Times, Toronto, October 1, publishes the following figures from the August reports of the 22 banks holding Dominion charters:

	August, 1915.	August, 1914.	Year's increase (+) or decrease (—).
Deposits on demand.....	\$334,022,174	\$338,984,418	— 1.1
Deposits after notice.....	692,580,026	699,399,151	+ 5.007
Current loans in Canada.....	755,342,735	830,238,033	— 8.1
Current loans elsewhere.....	44,968,445	47,314,532	— 6.3
Loans to municipalities.....	46,020,730	39,664,534	+17.9
Call loans in Canada.....	71,855,065	69,220,045	+ 2.8
Call loans elsewhere.....	120,607,677	96,495,473	+25.0
Circulation.....	99,610,862	114,551,825	—13.1

Including \$128,109,996 deposited abroad, the deposits of Canada's banks aggregate \$1,154,712,796. Without foreign deposits, the August total of deposits is the largest on record for that month.

CONVENTION ON MINING LAWS.

[Announcement of United States Bureau of Mines.]

A convention that will act on recommendations regarding a general revision of the Federal mining laws will meet in Washington, D. C., on December 16. All the known mining societies in the United States have been invited to send delegates, and it is hoped that the mining industry will be so well represented that the action of the convention will be regarded as expressing the wishes of the industry.

Some of the resolutions that will come before the convention will recommend the fixing of a reasonable term of years beyond which placer claims shall be immune from attack on the ground of fraud, full privilege of appeal in all cases of contests over locations, recording of notices of mining locations so as to insure public notice, the abolishment of the law of the apex, and the appointment of a Government commission, under an act of Congress, to investigate and to make recommendations as a basis for the revision of the mining law.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the **Bureau** or its **branch offices**.]

Shelter tents, No. 18811.—The Bureau has received a letter from a Government contractor in the Near East who states that he is in a position to handle a large number of shelter tents of standard model complete, with aluminum eyelets, the price of which must not be more than 12.50 francs. A sample, with full particulars as to price, time of delivery, conditions of payment, bonds, etc., should be sent immediately. The price must include commission. A technical description in French should accompany the sample and form part of the contract.

Hardware, No. 18812.—The Bureau has received from a commercial organization in this country a copy of a letter from a business man in Cuba who desires to represent American manufacturers of hardware of all kinds. He is willing to furnish first-class references upon request.

Leather, thread, etc., No. 18813.—A commercial organization in the United States informs the Bureau that a business man in Serbia desires to represent American manufacturers of machinery, sole leathers, chevreaux, wooden nails for shoemakers, prepared skiffs for opankes (a kind of shoe for peasants), cotton thread, etc. Correspondence may be in English. He desires to receive catalogues and price lists at once.

Machinery, No. 18814.—A man in Russia desires to receive catalogues and full particulars relative to automatic machinery for the manufacture of sheet-iron water buckets about 0.5 millimeter in thickness.

Electric-light carbons, No. 18815.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France states that an electrical supply firm in that country desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of electric-light carbons for street lighting.

Toys, games, etc., No. 18816.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in London has referred to the Bureau a letter from a business firm in England expressing its desire to represent American manufacturers or exporters of toys (wood and tin), games, etc.

Fuller's earth, No. 18817.—The Bureau is informed by the commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in England that a man in that country desires to communicate with American firms who wish to import fuller's earth.

Foodstuffs, No. 18818.—The Bureau is informed by the commercial agent in charge of its branch office in New York that the representative of an export house doing business in Greece is interested in securing agencies from American firms for preserved provisions, sausages, soups, pea, and similar articles of food.

Machinery, No. 18819.—The Bureau has received a letter from a business man in Argentina who desires to receive catalogues and full information regarding machines for loading, weighting, and sewing sacks containing 1 kilo of sugar.

Lumber, beans, No. 18820.—The Bureau has received a letter from a representative of an export firm, doing business in the Levant, expressing his desire to communicate with American dealers or exporters in lumber (chiefly spruce and pine, in boards and square hewn logs), and in edible beans.

Pharmaceutical preparations, No. 18821.—An American consular officer in France has transmitted the names of a number of business men in his district who desire to represent American manufacturers or exporters of pharmaceutical preparations.

Harness and saddlery, No. 18822.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a business firm in his districts desires to represent American manufacturers of saddlery and harness. The firm is in a position to keep a large stock of supplies on hand which it would sell either on a commission basis or on its own account. Catalogues, price lists, etc., should be sent immediately. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.

- Machinery**, No. 18823.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Argentina who desires to communicate with American manufacturers of machines for pressing and cutting sugar "ingots," 20 by 24 millimeters thick and 188 millimeters long.
- Potassium bromide**, No. 18824.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a firm in his district desires to establish business connections with American manufacturers of potassium bromide. The firm is willing to pay cash against documents in New York. Correspondence may be in English.
- Galvanized sheets and nails**, No. 18825.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a municipal officer in his district desires to secure prices per ton, on corrugated galvanized sheets, 24 and 26 gauge, from 6 to 10 feet long; and of nails with lead heads for attaching these sheets.
- Toilet articles**, No. 18826.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and prices of toilet articles, such as hair brushes, combs, toilet soaps, and cotton and paper towels.
- Zinc white**, No. 18827.—A business man in Denmark informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent an American manufacturer or exporter of zinc white. He states that while he desires to secure the exclusive representation of some firm, he is willing to buy on his own account. Samples should be accompanied by analyses.
- Hops**, No. 18828.—An American consular officer in Chile transmits the name and address of a man in his district who desires to receive samples and prices of hops similar in quality to the Bavarian hops. They should be packed in 1-pound packages.
- Cotton goods**, No. 18829.—An American consular officer in Denmark has transmitted the name of a business man in his district who desires to purchase American-made cotton goods of all kinds. Correspondence may be in English.
- Gums**, No. 18830.—A firm in India has informed an American consular officer that it desires to communicate with American importers of gum arabic, Persian, and other gums.
- Cutlery**, No. 18831.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and prices of razors and scissors for the hairdressers' trade. If possible, prices should be quoted c. i. f. British ports, in English currency.
- Motor hose truck**, No. 18832.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Chile that a representative of a fire company in his district desires to receive illustrated catalogues, prices, etc., of motor hose trucks, the reel of which is operated by power other than hand. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred, but English may be used.
- Nitrate of silver crystals**, No. 18833.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase large quantities of crystals of nitrate of silver. Correspondence may be in English.
- Hair nets**, No. 18834.—A firm in China has informed an American consular officer that it is in a position to supply hair nets of the best quality. Correspondence may be in English.
- Machinery, cement, etc.**, No. 18835.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Chile that a firm of building contractors in his district desires to secure at once catalogues, prices, etc., of cement; concrete machinery; machines for making cement blocks, bricks, tiles, etc.; metal laths; steel beams of various kinds for substantial three and four story buildings; and materials for making concrete floor coverings.
- Oilcloth, rubber shoes, etc.**, No. 18836.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a man in his district desires to purchase American-made oilcloth, rubber shoes, and waterproof clothing. He states that he deals entirely on a cash basis and is able to furnish first-class references. Correspondence may be in English.

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

The following tables show the quantity of each of the principal commodities and the number of passengers carried through the United States and the Canadian Sault Ste. Marie (Soo) Canals during September and for the season, until September 30, 1914, and 1915:

[From a report of the United States engineer in charge of the United States canal at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.]

FOR SEPTEMBER.

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total both canals.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	6,628	12,751	331	3,368	6,959	16,119
Grain.....bushels.....	3,102,896	4,915,551	2,487,115	1,538,351	5,590,011	6,453,902
Flour.....barrels.....	1,226,510	856,062	354,730	356,440	1,581,240	1,212,503
Iron ore.....short tons..	1,549,937	6,925,276	3,739,871	873,089	5,289,808	7,798,965
Iron, pig.....do.....	2,138	2,214	.....	2,150	2,138	4,364
Lumber.....M ft. b. m.....	58,146	58,349	1,819	5,371	59,965	63,720
Wheat.....bushels.....	6,211,090	14,970,491	15,458,520	10,503,477	21,669,610	25,473,968
General merchandise, short tons.....	15,261	27,151	15,990	11,391	31,251	38,542
Passengers.....number..	1,952	(a)	1,095	(a)	3,047	(a)
WESTBOUND.						
Coal, hard.....short tons..	142,063	171,410	20,847	3,150	162,910	174,560
Coal, soft.....do.....	1,427,127	1,493,836	296,475	59,600	1,723,602	1,553,436
Manufactured iron.....do.....	10,390	13,307	4,901	5,020	15,291	18,327
Flour.....barrels.....	145	.....	.....	.....	145	.....
Salt.....do.....	66,800	85,917	2,828	1,400	69,628	87,317
General merchandise, short tons.....	103,048	167,358	34,028	34,911	137,076	202,269
Passengers.....number..	1,420	1,326	1,374	1,339	2,794	2,665
Total freight:						
Eastbound, short tons.....	2,055,978	7,731,306	4,312,430	1,286,465	6,368,408	9,017,771
Westbound.....do.....	1,692,653	1,858,790	356,655	102,881	2,049,308	1,961,680
Both ways.....do.....	3,748,631	9,590,105	4,669,085	1,389,343	8,417,716	10,979,451
Vessel passages.....number..						
Registered tonnage.....net..	1,846	2,521	850	620	2,696	3,141
Registered tonnage.....net..	3,554,372	7,372,202	2,851,631	1,403,407	6,403,003	8,775,609

SIX MONTHS ENDING SEPT. 30.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	45,401	84,287	1,836	11,066	47,237	95,373
Grain.....bushels.....	16,503,435	15,182,954	21,442,093	10,321,399	37,945,528	25,504,353
Flour.....barrels.....	5,201,562	3,578,119	1,523,890	1,512,988	6,725,452	5,091,107
Iron ore.....short tons..	7,463,484	31,917,862	18,459,518	1,843,890	25,923,002	33,761,752
Iron, pig.....do.....	11,513	2,214	2,200	4,700	13,713	6,914
Lumber.....M ft. b. m.....	334,679	318,819	13,569	34,249	348,248	353,068
Wheat.....bushels.....	19,341,784	46,016,570	62,303,979	20,522,156	81,645,763	66,538,726
General merchandise, short tons.....	133,618	118,302	67,496	93,069	201,114	211,371
Passengers.....number..	15,349	(b)	12,197	(b)	27,546	(b)
WESTBOUND.						
Coal, hard.....short tons..	1,314,114	1,410,101	275,387	38,633	1,589,501	1,448,734
Coal, soft.....do.....	8,066,326	7,843,698	1,647,897	262,365	9,714,223	8,106,063
Flour.....barrels.....	512	100	150	.....	662	100
Grain.....bushels.....	.....	31,250	.....	.....	.....	31,250
Manufactured iron, short tons.....	130,030	120,975	47,583	13,162	177,613	134,137
Salt.....barrels.....	504,472	462,900	61,264	18,270	565,736	481,170
General merchandise, short tons.....	525,565	691,739	273,738	190,636	799,303	882,375
Passengers.....number..	13,697	12,475	16,322	11,484	30,019	23,959
Total freight:						
Eastbound, short tons.....	9,674,504	34,751,977	20,994,043	2,987,761	30,668,547	37,739,738
Westbound.....do.....	10,111,756	10,136,459	2,253,372	507,406	12,365,128	10,643,865
Both ways.....do.....	19,786,260	44,888,436	23,247,415	3,495,167	43,033,675	48,383,603
Vessel passages.....number..						
Registered tonnage.....net..	9,705	12,139	4,851	2,768	14,556	14,907
Registered tonnage.....net..	18,558,251	33,703,878	14,443,497	4,875,120	33,001,748	38,578,996

^a Returns not received.

^b Returns incomplete.

NOTE.—The United States canal opened on Apr. 20, 1914, and on Apr. 17, 1915. The Canadian canal opened on Apr. 20, 1914, and on Apr. 13, 1915.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
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No. 246 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 20 1915

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MODIFICATION OF ITALIAN EMBARGO ON TOMATO PASTE.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Sept. 25, 1915.]

According to an announcement of the Italian Minister of Commerce, the exportation of tomato paste from Italy is now permitted to the countries of North and South America, as well as to a limited number of other countries. [As stated in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 17, p. 139, the Italian embargo list was extended to cover all food products, raw or prepared, by a decree of June 13, 1915.]

LACK OF SHIPPING FACILITIES AT ADEN.

[Consul William J. Grace, Aden, British Arabia, Sept. 3.]

The agent of the Union Castle Line informed me the other day that he has orders not to accept cargo for transshipment to the United States. By paying the rate from Calcutta to England merchants at Aden may secure space in ships of the Union Castle Line. It is assumed if the Calcutta merchants will pay more they will get the space.

HARDWARE SHORTAGE IN AUSTRALIA.

[Sydney Herald, Sept. 15.]

Most of the hardware houses are short of general ironmongery, and many lines of hollow ware are almost unobtainable in quantities for immediate delivery. During the past few days Sydney merchants have been obliged to buy in the Melbourne market at advanced rates.

EXPORTATION OF BRITISH WOOL PERMITTED.

[Telegram from American Consul General, London, Oct. 15, 1915.]

Announcement made that consideration will be given to applications for licenses to export tops of crossbred or other wool, except merino, to allied and neutral countries, under satisfactory guaranty.

RECENT AMERICAN TRADE STATISTICS.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending October 16, 1915, at 13 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$1,700	\$43	\$2,462,671
Massachusetts (Boston).....	1,377,868	226,066	1,979,722
New York.....	19,861,037	2,650,319	44,367,858
Philadelphia.....	1,388,837	241,107	2,614,745
Maryland (Baltimore).....	435,382	41,751	4,905,159
Virginia (Norfolk).....	39,068	1,460	1,173,833
New Orleans.....	1,832,472	9,236	3,345,355
Galveston.....	23,532	1,927	5,122,672
San Francisco.....	2,069,635	99,376	1,063,700
Washington (Seattle).....	1,000,600	27,922	1,679,333
Buffalo.....	539,200	39,089	1,575,638
Chicago.....	550,508	114,630	93,258
Michigan (Detroit).....	644,916	25,459	3,310,990
Total.....	29,782,056	3,478,385	73,694,653

The above figures show a favorable balance on merchandise transactions for the week ending October 16 in the 13 customs districts of \$43,912,598. The 13 districts cited handled about 91 per cent of the import and export business of the country, based on the transactions in July, 1915.

Cotton exported during the week ending October 16 amounted to 146,661 bales, making the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 958,145 bales.

BIG WHEAT CROP OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Sept. 15.]

Recently published Government statistics place the area sown to wheat in New South Wales this year at 5,138,000 acres, which exceeds by 980,423 acres any previous area sown to wheat in New South Wales. In 1914 the area was 4,157,577 acres, but in consequence of the excessive drought the yield was very low.

There has been a special effort made to increase the area of wheat sown this year, particularly on account of a guaranteed price of 4s. (97 cents) per bushel by the Government for all wheat grown on new land this year. It appears that this Government bonus will apply to wheat grown from about 980,423 acres.

Not only is the acreage sown to wheat this year the highest in the history of New South Wales, but from present indications the crop will also be a record one. It is estimated that as much as 1,100,000 acres may be cut for hay, on account of the stocks of last year's hay being depleted by the drought. The estimates for the 1915-16 wheat crop place the yield at 52,000,000 to 60,000,000 bushels, the highest previous yield having been 38,020,381 bushels in 1913-14.

The manufacture of banana powder is to be undertaken by a Cambridge, Mass., firm. This and the production of banana "figs" are important industries of the West Indies, and have frequently been described in *COMMERCE REPORTS*; see the issues for July 12 and October 28, 1911, June 12, 1912, October 1, 1913, and June 8, 1915.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he received in stock during the week ended October 16 the following new United States Government publications of a business character, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

The National-Bank Act as Amended—The Federal Reserve Act and Other Laws Relating to National Banks, edition of July 1, 1915.—Bringing the laws covering banking and currency in the United States up to date, including the original national-bank act, the Aldrich-Vreeland Act, the Federal reserve act, and all amendments thereto. Price, paper, 25c; cloth, 50c.

Japanese Cotton Goods Industry and Trade—Special Consular Reports 74, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Covering present status of companies, output, exports, mill production, markets. Price, 5c.

Directory of American Sawmills—Miscellaneous Series 27, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—List of sawmills in the United States arranged by States, with tables giving quantity turned out by each mill, etc. Price, 25c.

Financial Development in South American Countries—Special Agents Series 103, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Covering financial conditions in South American countries, embracing Government credits, banking, emergency measures, etc. Price, 5c.

Legal Weights (in pounds) per Bushel of Various Commodities, Standards Bureau Circular 10, reprint.—Giving practical tables showing weights in pounds of commodities commonly used in the household. Price, 5c.

Analyzed Irons and Steels—Methods of Analysis, Standards Bureau Circular 14, reprint.—Covering analysis of irons and steels, descriptions of methods, etc. Price, 5c.

Mathematics in the Lower and Middle Commercial and Industrial Schools of Various Countries Represented in the International Commission on the Teaching of Mathematics, Education Bureau Bulletin 35, 1915.—Articles on the teaching of mathematics in commercial and industrial schools, under countries, arranged alphabetically, covering methods, synopsis of courses, etc. Price, 15c.

Some Foreign Educational Surveys—Education Bureau Bulletin 37, 1915.—Educational Surveys in Switzerland, England, Belgium, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Austria, France, New South Wales, Sweden, New Zealand, and Canada. Price, 10c.

Oysters: The Food that Has Not "Gone Up," A Little of Their History and How to Cook Them, Bureau of Fisheries Economic Circular 18.—Interesting dissertation on the oyster as a food, covering its history, culture, etc., with many valuable recipes. Price, 5c.

Chemical Composition of American Food Materials, Experiment Station Bulletin 23, reprint.—A practical work on the value of American food materials, covering animal and vegetable foods, giving maximum, minimum, and average composition, etc., of value in teaching domestic science. Price, 10c.

The Southern Cypress, Agriculture Department Bulletin 272.—Embracing geographical and commercial range, present supply and annual cut, properties and use of wood, markets, and prices, life history of the tree, etc. Price, 20c.

Formulae for Calculating Interest on Farm Equipment, Agriculture Department Circular 53.—Practical method of computing interest accruing from use of agricultural implements and equipment. Price, 5c.

UNCHARTED ROCKS IN EAST RIVER.

A United States Coast and Geodetic Survey party making a wire-drag survey of the main channel of East River, N. Y., reports a drag survey of the main channel of East River, New York, reports a number of uncharted rocks dangerous at low water to the deeper-draft vessels now using the channel northeastward and eastward of Rikers Island. One of the most important is a sharp pinnacle rock, with a least depth of 21 feet and surrounding depths of 40 to 62 feet, which lies near the middle of the channel. A detailed description of the rocks is given in Commerce Notice to Mariners, No. 43, of 1915.

THE GERMAN HOP CROP OF 1915.

[Consul C. S. Winans, Nuremberg, Sept. 18.]

As the picking of the German hop crop of 1915 is nearly completed, it is now possible to use the opinions of experts for a comparison with the crop of 1914, an account of present sales, and a consideration of prospects for the future.

At planting time fears were expressed in many quarters that hop growers would materially restrict their plantings and devote the land to other products from which the prospects of making profits might seem more flattering. The result has shown that these surmisings had a real foundation, for the area devoted to hop raising in Germany has decreased from 68,410 acres in 1914 to about 57,000 acres in the present season, i. e., about 17 per cent.

Yield Smaller, but of Good Quality.

In 1914 there were produced 51,120,500 pounds of hops in Germany and 42,050,800 pounds in Austria-Hungary. The 1915 crop in the former country is now estimated at 33,000,000 to 34,000,000 pounds and in the latter at 22,000,000 to 23,000,000 pounds, and even at 21,000,000 pounds by one expert. It is therefore apparent that the present German hop yield is only about two-thirds as large as that of last year, and in Austria-Hungary the crop is only about half as large.

As compensation for the disappointing quantity it is noted that the quality is generally good if not excellent. The plant is very green in color, but is somewhat lighter in weight than in 1914. However, the demand has diminished in about the same proportion as the quantity has declined, due to the large supplies laid in by brewers from the abundant 1914 harvest. This has affected prices unfavorably, and these now range, according to sort and quality, between \$8.65 and \$14 per 100 pounds, original cost.

Future Course of Market Doubtful.

If we roughly estimate the present crop in Germany at 33,000,000 pounds and in Austria-Hungary at 22,000,000 pounds, and the present needs of brewers in both countries at 33,000,000 pounds, this would leave a surplus of about 22,000,000 pounds, which under normal conditions would be exported. At present, however, Switzerland, Holland, and Scandinavia offer the only markets, and even this traffic is considerably impeded by the imperial prohibition of the exportation of jute, from which hop bags are made. Another unfavorable circumstance is the fact that the brewers in these countries also made large purchases of last year's crop.

It is now impossible to predict what the future market will be. Even if the German brewers, either from patriotic motives or from a farsighted prudence, decide to buy up all the German crop that can not now be exported, it is not likely that the present low prices will advance. On the other hand, it is not improbable that they will sink still lower. This unfavorable state of things for the hop grower will doubtless continue until a sure prospect of peace shall appear, when it is probable that the prices will suddenly rise, for the growers will then prepare to meet the demands of their regular foreign markets.

[Earlier references to the German and Austrian hop crops appeared during the current year in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for: Germany—Apr. 20 and June 19; Austria-Hungary—July 30 and Sept. 13 and 27.]

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SWEDEN.

[Translation from the Swedish press, prepared in the American Legation, Stockholm, Aug. 10.]

It is now a whole year since the war upset the regular order of events. If we ask how conditions are in Sweden after this year of war, it must be said that they are comparatively good, and economic relations with foreign countries are far more favorable now than they were last fall.

Financiers state that the supply of money is enough for present wants. Loans that have been taken up have been successful, and financing of great industries has been better than expected. Rates of exchange on foreign money, especially dollars, pounds, and francs, were for a time very high, but now they have gone down in Sweden's favor, and have made it possible for Sweden to pay many debts to foreign countries to its great advantage, and Swedish bonds have been bought back from other countries at a gain. The stock market is low and all papers have dropped considerably, but the Balkan war had already started this.

A Made-in-Sweden Campaign.

There have been few failures here, owing to the very careful and considerate treatment of the banks. To a certain extent commerce and industry has had to seek different channels, but has adapted itself pretty well to the present circumstances. In spite of great difficulties shipping has been a source of considerable income to Sweden. That which has been worst here is the great expense the Government has had and the marked increase in food prices. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the crops be good this year, and the outlook is rather bright at present.

The war has taught Sweden many things about transit trade, and it is hoped that this knowledge will be applied later. After the war is ended it is expected that domestic manufactures will have to compete very strongly with foreign goods here in Sweden, for the countries now at war will try to find outlets for their wares in the neutral markets. Therefore the people here are being admonished to use Swedish goods as far as possible.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sept. 24.]

Work for the Unemployed in Stockholm.

The labor commission which has to do with the unemployed in this city has sent a memorandum to the mayor of Stockholm requesting that the unemployed be placed in a position to manufacture coconut mats. It is also suggested that they be so organized that they may be placed under the direct management of some laborer whom they may choose themselves. It is proposed that something like \$15,000 shall be expended for this purpose. From this sum it is proposed to spend \$3,000 for machines, furniture, and rent for a large house to work in.

The percentage of unemployed in this city is somewhat greater than last year, owing to the fact that in various parts of the country there has been less demand for labor. On the whole, the general prosperity of the country at large has not been augmented by existing conditions.

MARKET STATUS OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCTS.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Aug. 25.]

There has been very little change in the general condition of the market for South African products during the last few months. After the flurry in April and May, which caused a noticeable advance in prices of ostrich feathers in the local market, another dull period set in, which has continued practically without a change up to the present time. The municipal feather market resumed sales some little time ago [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 29, July 19, Aug. 2, and Sept. 8 and 17, 1915], but the results have not been entirely satisfactory.

One of the principal difficulties experienced on the local market is the absence of any sort of control over the amount of feathers offered for sale. This is especially noticeable during periods like the present, when feather values are down. For instance, just when the market was slightly improving and indications were more hopeful for future trade, an enormous quantity of feathers was placed upon the market and one week's sales totaled over 7 tons in weight. This is a new high record for sales in any South African market for one week. The natural result was that the next week's sales were exceedingly small and prices dropped accordingly.

United States Chief Buyer—Feather Prices.

The United States has been far and away the most important customer for feathers this year. Besides large direct shipments, nearly two-thirds of the feathers shipped to England have been re-exported to the United States.

Since the great decline in prices of a year and a half ago the London feather market has been practically nonexistent and it is doubtful if it ever again assumes the importance in connection with the marketing of these products that it held in the past. Port Elizabeth market prices are the standard values of to-day, should have been in the past, and will continue to be in the future unless some other South African port secures the bulk of this export trade.

The following are the latest prices per pound quoted, but they have probably been exceeded slightly on this week's sales: Whites—superior lots \$10.20–\$17.25, good average lots \$7.50–\$10, poor lots \$4.25–\$6; inferior whites and feminas, \$1.25–\$2.50; feminas—superior lots \$8.50–\$13.50, good average lots \$5–\$7.50, poor lots \$3–\$4.25; blacks, drabs, and tails, \$0.50–\$3; spadonas, \$1.50–\$5.

Wool Market Firm.

The American demand has been almost entirely responsible for the firm prices which have been obtained on the Port Elizabeth and East London markets for almost all varieties of wool of reasonable quality. There is no trade in old stocks and seedy short wools are unsalable except at very low prices. The demand for scoured wools is weaker. Orange Free State and Transvaal wools, which have been placed upon this market during the past season, were much below the average on account of the drought. While rains have fallen in certain sections it is questionable if this season's wool production is not adversely affected to a similar or even greater extent than last season's clips.

Following are the latest quotations, expressed in American cents per pound, on the local markets: Grassveldt grease—long, 12 months (superior), 18–20, medium, 9 to 10 months, 15–17, short, 10–13; Karoo—long, 12 months, 15–18, medium, 9 to 10 months, 12–15, short, 9–12; Orange Free State and Transvaal super long, 14–16; Orange Free State—heavy, 9–12, short light (free or fairly free), 10½–11½, short heavy (or seedy), 8–10; Basutos, 12–12½, coarse and colored, 11½–12½.

Mohair Quotations.

The local mohair market is quiet and there is little inquiry for stocks at the present time. This is not surprising, as it is between seasons and there is a small amount of mohair at the present time in Port Elizabeth. Reports have been received here of the death of many thousands of goats because of the drought in the angora sections. If the mortality be anything like as large as reported the amount of angora wool produced this year will be decidedly below the average.

Some small lots of superior kid's hair have changed hands at prices ranging from 40 to 42 cents per pound. The local trade anticipates that the new season's winter hair will be sold at 19 to 20 cents per pound. This, however, is only a local estimate, based probably more upon past experiences than upon present conditions. Latest quotations, in cents per pound, are: Summer kids—special clips, 40–42; average to good, 32–36; mixed or short, 24–28; winter kids, 20–24; summer firsts—super, 23–25; average, 22–22½; short, 20–20½; mixed hair—good length, 19–20; average, 16–18; seedy and coarse, 12–14; winter hair, nominal, 19–20; locks, 13–13½; Basuto hair, 20–21.

Hides and Skins.

The hide market is fairly quiet and sheepskins are slightly lower. All other grades are practically unchanged. The latest quotations are, in cents per pound: Sheepskins, sound, 10½; same, damaged, 8. Sheepskin pelts, 8; same, damaged, 6½. Coarse woolled, 10; same, damaged, 6½. Angora goatskins, light, 15; heavy and sun dried, 13. Goatskins, light, 22½; sun dried, 20; heavy, 18; damaged, 11. Sun-dried hides, 23½; same, damaged, 21. Dry-salted hides, 21½; same, damaged, 19. Salted hair Capes were quoted at 63 cents each; same, damaged, at 12½ cents. For sound sun-dried Capes 37 cents apiece was asked, and 12½ cents for damaged.

IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE IN COPPER.

The imports and exports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended October 9, 1915, were as follows: Imports—Ore, matte and regulus (copper contents), 426,799 pounds, valued at \$50,837; pigs, ingots, etc., 4,208,016 pounds, valued at \$550,927. Of the ore and matte, 422,749 pounds came from Canada, and of the pigs, ingots, etc., 2,888,372 pounds came from Peru, 743,745 pounds from Chile, and 488,199 pounds from Panama.

Of 4,335,622 pounds of pigs, ingots, etc., exported, valued at \$776,437, England took 2,543,102 pounds and Italy 1,412,234 pounds.

GROUND PEAT WANTED IN CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, Sept. 8.]

An exceptional opportunity to supply the Canary Islands with ground peat (commercially known as "turba") is open to owners of peat properties in the United States. There is an almost absolute lack of this material, which is here considered indispensable for the dry packing of tomatoes and the damp packing of new potatoes—two vegetables that are exported in very large quantities to England.

Close calculations, made especially for the Teneriffe consulate by firms representing at least 90 per cent of the total consumption of ground peat in this district, show that approximately 3,000 tons are urgently needed to handle the coming crops of potatoes and tomatoes. These two crops will be in full course of exportation by December next and will continue until May, 1916; and packers will practically be compelled to pay almost any price to European producers of ground peat unless a supply can be obtained from other sources.

High Prices Now Asked.

Just at this time fruit shippers are paying extraordinary prices for the small quantities being used in this by-season. In order to fill a contract two weeks ago a local commission house was forced to pay \$26.40 per ton for ground peat, of which the price in July, 1914, was \$9.60. This was certainly an exceptional case and one in which the price paid was a forced figure, due to the contract necessities of the firm.

On the other hand, the regular guaranteed delivery price for "turba" at this date is \$24 per ton c. i. f. Canary ports in lots of 100 tons or more. At a recent consultation of the principal buyers of ground peat in Teneriffe, brought together by me to consider the chances of American ground peat for use between October, 1915, and May, 1916, it was agreed that if it could be landed here at a price between \$19.20 and \$21.60 it could undersell the supply from any other market. This is emphasized by the fact that 100 tons of ground peat were bought in England yesterday at \$22.80 per ton. This offer was snapped up as a bargain by cable.

From the American Viewpoint.

The proposition, however, from the American viewpoint can not well be solved by small-lot orders. It is generally agreed here among the important buyers that the best way for American producers to handle the ground-peat problem would be to load a sailing vessel with practically an entire cargo of ground peat. This cargo could safely approximate 3,000 tons. In this way the freight charges could be reduced to a point where they could compete with those for the shorter haul from Liverpool.

Moreover, there are four buyers of ground peat who claim at this time to be willing to place orders totaling 2,000 tons at a minimum price of \$19.20 per ton. Of course this standard of price is entirely contingent upon the continuation of war conditions, and for this reason buyers here are unwilling to take on a larger stock at this time than indicated above. As promptness is essential, it is of the

utmost importance that samples be sent with offers and that prices f. o. b. American port or, if possible, c. i. f. a Canary port be quoted, as well as time of deliveries.

How the Peat Should be Prepared and Packed.

To meet a quick sale here the peat must first be thoroughly dried, the maximum percentage of moisture not exceeding 10 per cent at time of packing as the sea voyage can be counted on usually to add an extra 3 per cent of humidity before actual delivery in Canary ports. After drying the peat should be ground extremely fine and soft. It should be odorless, as otherwise it seriously affects the flavor of the tomatoes packed in it. Another important point is the absence of sticks or lumps.

"Turba" should be packed in hessian-covered bales of 100 kilos (220.46 pounds avoirdupois), which gives 10 bales to the tonelada or metric ton. However, bales approximating 200 pounds and counting 10 to the ton would be acceptable commercially here. The ground-peat bales should be strongly compressed by machinery and thoroughly bound with wire over wooden staves.

[Samples showing the general character of the ground peat desired, together with the names of five Tenerife Importers now ready to buy considerable quantities, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 67179.]

NEW REGULATIONS GOVERN CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLIES.

The Treasury Department has issued Department Circular No. 3, containing new regulations relating to the making of contracts for miscellaneous supplies for the executive departments and other Government establishments in Washington, under the provisions of section 4 of the act of June 17, 1910 (36 Stat., 531). The duties of the General Supply Committee and of the Superintendent of Supplies are defined in these rules, and details of the manner in which the committee shall prepare the annual schedules of required miscellaneous supplies and perform other duties in connection with the obtaining of bids by the Secretary of the Treasury are given. Persons who are interested in such contracts may obtain copies of Circular No. 3 by applying to the General Supply Committee, Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN LINOTYPE MACHINE IN TRIPOLI, AFRICA.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Tripoli, Libya, Sept. 8.]

The first American linotype machine has recently arrived in Tripoli and been installed by La Nuova Italia, the only newspaper in the colony. It is a Mergenthaler, Model 10, and cost, set up, 11,500 francs (\$2,300). The sale was made by the manufacturer's agents at Milan, Italy, whence an expert was sent to mount the machine and start it working. It replaces two of English make, operated by former owners of the paper, found too large for local requirements and taken back by the sellers when the company dissolved.

SWEDISH EXPORT TRADE FOR HALF YEAR.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Goteborg, Sept. 15.]

Statistics published in the Swedish Government Commercial Reports for July 31, 1915, present a comparison between the exports of Sweden during the first six months of 1915 and the corresponding period in 1914.

The export of horses increased from 3,148 in the six months of 1914 to 7,456 for 1915. The export of live cattle increased from 18,873 to 23,083, while that of live hogs decreased from 20,083 to 3,844. The exports of fresh beef increased from 2,244 to 5,200 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds) and of pork from 6,379 to 10,617 metric tons. The increased export of live cattle and the increased slaughtering of cattle appear to have been chiefly due to the scarcity and high price of cattle feed.

Dairy Industry Suffers from Scarcity of Cattle Feed.

The dairy industry suffered for the same reason, the export of cream decreasing from 3,259 metric tons in 1914 to 436 metric tons in 1915 and butter from 10,833 to 7,842 metric tons. The export of milk increased from 837 to 2,251 metric tons, but this item accounts for only a part of the decrease in the exports of butter. The export of eggs almost doubled, being 26,979,866 eggs during the first six months of 1914 and 52,184,515 in 1915.

The increase is due in part to increase in the transit trade in Russian eggs, the imports of eggs for the same periods having increased from 21,746,155 to 26,190,017.

The export of fresh fish was about the same for the two periods, but the export of salted herring showed an increase from 1,981 metric tons in 1914 to 11,700 metric tons in 1915. There was practically no export of grain from Sweden in 1915, although in 1914 there was considerable export of oats, oatmeal, bran, and rice. The exports of hides of cattle decreased from 5,256 to 2,658 metric tons. The export of sausage casings increased from 528 to 1,206 metric tons.

Most of the items of export of lumber, which is one of Sweden's principal staple products, show a decided decrease during the first six months of 1915 compared with 1914. Wood pulp, another of the important staple products of Sweden, shows a still greater decline.

Decreases in Exports of Mineral Products.

Most of the items of export of mineral products show decreases, cement, which increased from 18,643 to 41,059, being the most important exception. Quicklime exports decreased from 2,469 to 340 metric tons; fire clay, from 11,966 to 2,230 metric tons; iron ore, from 2,527,991 to 2,026,762 metric tons; stone, unwrought, from \$458,114 to \$216,383 in value; paving stones, from \$1,585,143 to \$690,968; "edge" stone, building stone, etc., from \$312,094 to \$63,009; lime bricks and tiles, unglazed, from 11,993,616 to 8,407,576 pieces; and fire bricks, from 40,685 to 16,607 metric tons.

The export of pig iron during the first six months of 1915 was 118,004 metric tons, against 68,281 metric tons for the same period of 1914, an increase of over 73 per cent.

Declared Exports to United States.

The declared exports from this consular district to the United States, according to the invoices certified at this consulate, amounted

during the first half of 1915 to \$1,842,280, against \$2,043,110 for the corresponding period of 1914, a decrease of approximately 10 per cent. The most important decreases are to be noted in the case of bleached chemical wood pulp, from \$845,399 to \$488,934; wrapping paper, from \$148,421 to \$77,848; and matches, from \$266,909 to \$143,526. Ball bearings show a phenomenal increase, from \$87,501 to \$388,865. Several other items show an increase, including unbleached chemical wood pulp, from \$185,814 to \$257,999. The items of declared exports for the two periods named were:

Articles.	January-June, 1914.	January-June, 1915.	Articles.	January-June, 1914.	January-June, 1915.
Fish (total).....	\$15,564	\$12,900	Potash and soda, caustic.....	\$5,948	\$6,441
Hides and skins	220,543	215,968	Wood pulp:		
Iron and steel:			Mechanically ground	2,833	5,270
Ball bearings	87,501	388,865	Chemical bleached	845,399	488,934
Machines	4,368	23,273	Chemical unbleached	185,814	257,999
Rolled iron	67,453	33,324	All other goods	44,397	27,552
Steel blooms and billets.....	12,102	23,028			
Strips of iron and steel.....	84,418	78,459	Total	2,043,110	1,842,280
All other	79,064	34,924			
Matches	226,909	143,526			
Paper:					
Wrapping	148,421	77,848			
All other	12,373	23,900			

AUSTRALIAN STEAMERS PURCHASED.

[Sydney Herald, Sept. 22.]

The increased trade of Japan and China consequent upon the war has caused a big demand for steamers in the East, and quite a fleet of well-known Australian vessels have left at different times and gone to new owners in these two countries.

Several of the Adelaide Steamship Co.'s older vessels have been sold in this way, the most recent being the *Wollowra*, which leaves about the end of the month for new owners in Shanghai.

Lane & Dawson, who recently purchased and dispatched to the East the steamers *Hauroto* and *Brisbane*, have just purchased the Australian twin-screw steamer *Moura* from the Union Steamship Co. of New Zealand (Ltd.), which will be sent to China for the China coast trade. The *Moura* is of 2,027 tons, was built in 1899 by Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. (Ltd.), and has accommodation for about 250 first and second class passengers. It will come to Newcastle, load a cargo of coal, and proceed via the Philippines to Hongkong.

A New Cuban Bagging Fiber.

Experiments are being carried on in Cuba with the fiber of a plant locally known as "malva blanca," which is said to produce an ideal fabric for sugar bags. According to the Habana correspondent of Sugar, the fiber is soft and silky, possesses a tensile strength greater than hemp, is capable of close weaving, and not susceptible to shrinkage if wet. No special machines are required for handling the fiber, those adapted for spinning and weaving hemp, jute, or henequen being suitable for malva blanca.

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR SITUATION.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Sept. 3.]

The full details of the arrangement between the Attorney General of Australia and the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. for the purchase, refining, and marketing of the Queensland sugar crop were made public a few days ago. Under this agreement the company undertakes the financial responsibility for the sugar acquired by the Commonwealth from the Queensland Government, agreeing "to take delivery of, pay for, ship, and dispatch" it to the various refineries. The company also undertakes to market the sugar when refined at the wholesale prices fixed by the Government, which for 1A sugar are declared to be, per long ton: Brisbane, \$124.10; Sydney, \$124.10; Melbourne, \$124.70; Adelaide, \$125.92; Perth, \$127.75. The sugar is to be sold to the public at not more than 3d. (about 6 cents) per pound.

Other Provisions of the Agreement.

When the sugar has been refined and sold the company is to account to the Government for the money received for the sugar and sirup produced, deducting "the cost of the raw sugar at cost and the expenses for bags, freight, etc., cost of refining, and expenses of sale—in all, not exceeding £3 3s. (\$15.33) per ton—and also a charge of 20s. (\$4.87) per ton of raw sugar as representing depreciation and interest on plant and stocks and the payment for the services of the company in connection with the refining of sugar." (It will be remembered that the price at which the raw sugar was to be acquired from the Queensland Government was not to exceed \$87.60 per long ton.) The agreement also provides that the company shall sell to the Government at net cost some 14,200 tons of Java sugar that recently arrived, payment to be made out of the proceeds of such sugar when sold, no interest being charged by the company.

The prices fixed for the sale of the refined sugar are to remain in force until the stocks of 1915 Australian sugar, together with the 14,200 tons of Java sugar, have been disposed of. The entire agreement is to remain in effect until February or March, 1916, when the Queensland sugar supplied to the company will have been refined and sold. It is further agreed that the company return to the Government one-half of the charge of 20s. per ton provided for as payment for the use of its refineries.

Further Stocks Must Be Imported—Loan Authorized.

Conservative estimates by competent authorities indicate that the amount of sugar to be bought, refined, and sold under this agreement will amount to some 120,000 tons; but as this is only about one-half the quantity required to supply the consumption of Australia until the 1916 Queensland crop is available, it will be necessary that a further 120,000 tons be imported. These importations will be made by the Commonwealth Government, probably acting through the Colonial Sugar Refining Co., and involve the expenditure of approximately \$14,600,000.

To cover the cost of raw sugar, payment of customs duties, and cost of refining and marketing, a bill has been introduced into Parliament authorizing the Commonwealth Treasurer to borrow money from

the Commonwealth Bank of Australia from time to time, but so that the indebtedness of the Commonwealth to the Commonwealth Bank under the act shall not at any time exceed \$24,332,500. Against the money so borrowed the treasurer is to pay into the Commonwealth Bank all moneys received by the Commonwealth in respect to the sale of sugar. Provision is made in the bill for interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum.

[Reference was made to the shortage of sugar in Australia and the methods adopted to provide for the same in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 11, July 10 and 21, and Sept. 1, 1915.]

STEAM TRAWLING ON CHINESE COAST.

Mr. Tien Pu-sien, Commissioner of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, in the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, at Peking, has issued the following statement:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce is very desirous to encourage fishery by steam vessels. The first steam fishing vessels were used by the Kiang-Che Fishery (Kiangsu-Chekiang) Co. The name of the first built steamer is *Foo Hai*, which catches over 400,000 catties (catty=1½ pounds) of fish every year, and has made great profits. This steamer does not only fish in the ocean, but also helps to suppress piracy. The people of Kiangsu and Chekiang have looked upon it as a godsend in guarding their interest in fisheries. It is said that the company has bought another steamer called the *Foo Che*, in order to further the business on a larger scale. The next company that came into existence in the third year of the Republic is the Che Hai Fishery Co. Its head office is in Chinhal, Chekiang. All the vessels were built in China, and its only steamer, named *Fu Che*, was also built by Chinese contractors. Although established for only one year, the company has made progress enough to warrant it to build another steamer for the same purpose. Since the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce has promulgated the regulations encouraging and governing the steam fishing vessels the people are very anxious to form big fishing companies along the coast. The prosperity of the fishing enterprise in China will be seen at an early date.

INSULAR BANK PROPOSED IN PHILIPPINES.

[Manila Daily Bulletin, Sept. 14.]

The creation of an insular bank of the Philippine Islands, with an initial capital of 10,000,000 pesos (\$5,000,000), authorized to make loans on real estate, liquid assets, and miscellaneous assets, the latter to include all classes of bankable paper not included under the other two heads; to issue real estate bonds in any sum not to exceed 75 per cent of the amount of real estate loans held by the bank; to issue circulating notes in any amount not exceeding 75 per cent of the liquid assets held by it; and to purchase and own such real estate as may be needed to carry on its business, is proposed in a bill drafted by Vice Governor Martin for submission to the Philippine Legislature and indorsed by the economic committee recently approved by the Governor General.

The measure was reported upon favorably yesterday morning by Teodoro R. Yangco, the rural credit subcommittee of the economic committee, and will be introduced by its author without change in any important particular.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2725.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 27, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel windows, frame and sash, traveling crane, annunciators, buzzer push units, rivets, babbitt metal, sheet zinc, oil hose, copper tubing, flexible copper or brass conduit, galvanized pipe, pipe fittings, force cups, shower heads, flush pipe, wash-tray plugs, waste strainers, valves, cocks, vitrified pipe, drain tile, shovels, carbon brushes, burlap, tablecloths, towels, record books, office pins, lye, manganese dioxide, gasoline, and creosote oil. (Circular No. 978.)

Medical supplies, No. 2726.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, U. S. Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until October 25, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the Depot, arsenous acid, powdered camphor, cathartic compound tablets, glycerin, opium tincture, gauze bandages, corks, rubber tubing, and other medical supplies.

Wire and cable, No. 2727.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until October 25, 1915, for furnishing wire and cable. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

Plumbing fixtures, valves, etc., No. 2728.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until November 16, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., plumbing fixtures, valves, etc., for the west main cell wing. Specifications and further information may be had on application to the Washington office.

Lighting fixtures, No. 2729.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 15, 1915, for furnishing and installing lighting fixtures in the United States post office at Orange, N. J. Proposals are desired only from firms qualified to produce work of the highest grade, both artistically and mechanically. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the Washington office.

Construction work, No. 2730.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 26, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches, excepting lighting fixtures) of a one-story and basement, brick and stone faced building for the United States post office at Navasota, Tex. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site or at the Washington office.

Construction work, No. 2731.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of a one-story and basement, stone and brick faced building for the United States post office at Brenham, Tex. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site or at the Washington office.

Food products, etc., No. 2732.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, U. S. A., 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until October 22, 1915, for furnishing and delivering on or before November 8, 1915, salmon, coffee, tea, sirup, flour, ginger ale, lard, olive oil, etc.

Materials and labor, No. 2733.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., until November 15, 1915, for furnishing materials and labor for the construction of an addition to the brick assembly hall of the Salem Indian School, Chemawa, Oreg. Plans and specifications may be examined at the United States Indian

warehouses at Chicago, Ill., St. Louis, Mo.; Builders' Exchange, St. Paul, Minn.; and at the office of the superintendent of the Salem Indian School, Chemawa, Oreg.

Construction work, No. 2734.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 28, 1915, for the construction of sidewalks, curbing, etc., at the new United States postoffice and customhouse, New Haven, Conn. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the superintendent of construction, New Haven, Conn., or at the Washington office.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS IN SWEDEN.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Goteborg, Sept. 23.]

The summary of the crop reports for the month of August has now been compiled, and shows the following figures in comparison with those for the corresponding month in 1914, as published in the *Göteborgs Handels-och Sjöfarts-Tidning*:

Crop.	August rat-ings.		Crop.	August rat-ings.		Crop.	August rat-ings.	
	1914	1915		1914	1915		1914	1915
Winter wheat.....	3.4	3.3	Maslin	2.2	3.5	Fodder root crops.	2.7	3.6
Winter rye.....	3.4	2.6	Peas.....	2.3	3.5	Hay:		
Spring wheat.....	2.4	2.9	Beans.....	1.4	3.0	On cultivated		
Spring rye.....	2.4	2.7	Vetch.....	2.1	3.5	land.....	2.8	2.6
Barley.....	2.7	3.8	Potatoes.....	2.7	3.7	On natural		
Oats.....	2.0	3.5	Sugar Beets.....	3.3	3.7	meadows....	2.8	2.6

Of the whole numbers or "points" used in these crop reports, 5 represents very good crop; 4, good; 3, average; 2, less than average; 1, nearly failure; and 0, complete failure of the crops.

Situation Very Good in General.

The crop situation can be characterized as being very good in general. The August figures for winter rye and hay indicate yields somewhat below average, but all other crops of any importance promise returns above average. From the 1st of September to the present the weather has been warm, with plenty of sunshine and very little rain, and this has materially improved the condition of the crops.

In the case of potatoes, Sweden will be independent of foreign supplies and there will probably be some export. On account of the good crop of oats, maslin, peas, vetch, fodder, root crops, and a prospective second hay crop, Sweden will probably require less cattle feed from abroad than last year, but there will, of course, be considerable importation of corn (chiefly from Argentina), wheat bran, and oilseed cakes. Foreign flour, wheat, rye, and rye flour will also be purchased—mainly from the United States while the war lasts.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the **Bureau or its branch offices.**]

Barbers' supplies, No. 18837.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in England that a firm of importers in his district desires to receive catalogues, prices, etc., of shaving brushes, strops, styptic pencils (alum), neck wool, curling tongs, hair slides, waving irons, spirit lamps, shaving mugs, and bottles for toilet preparations.

Toys, No. 18838.—A manufacturer of cheap toys in Spain informs an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with American importers who would act as agents in the United States.

Alpacas, No. 18839.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a business man in his district desires to receive immediately samples, with full particulars as to prices, etc., of alpacas of all kinds. He is willing to pay cash against documents and states that he can furnish bank references.

Canary seed, sulphur, and olive oil, No. 18840.—A business man in Spain has informed an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with American importers of canary seed, sulphur, and olive oil. He also desires to act as general representative of American exporting firms.

Machinery, No. 18841.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Norway that a business man in his district desires to receive at once catalogues, prices, etc., of machines for making sandstone bricks. The material to be used is quartz sand mixed with a small amount of chalk. Machines with a capacity of 23,000 bricks per day are desired. He particularly desires special mixing machinery. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.

Flour and grain, No. 18842.—An American consular officer in the Canary Islands reports that a commission agent in his district desires to represent an American exporter of flour and grain. He claims to have a business in these two commodities valued at \$15,000 annually. The flour should be packed in bags containing about 200 pounds each. The terms desired are 30 days, or at least 6 days' sight draft after arrival of shipping documents at destination. References are given.

Printing supplies, No. 18843.—An American consular officer in France reports the desire of a business man in his district to represent American manufacturers or exporters of printing supplies.

Chemicals, No. 18844.—A commission agent in Spain has informed an American consular officer that he desires to receive at once prices and terms on caustic soda, red bichromate, and fluid used for decoloring green sulphur oil. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Hardware, cutlery, rubber goods, etc., No. 18845.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a trading corporation in that country, selling goods in the Dutch East Indies, desires to communicate with American manufacturers of hardware and cutlery, rubber goods, buttons, paper goods, toilet articles, household furnishings, boot and shoe findings, metals and minerals, stationery supplies, pins, needles, hooks and eyes, china and earthen ware, wearing apparel, glass and glassware, paints and varnishes, cotton goods, cordage and twine, jewelry, dyes and dyestuffs, novelties, etc. Samples are desired when practicable. The firm proposes to buy on its own account. If business results from preliminary negotiations, the firm intends to open a banking credit in New York. In order to expedite negotiations the firm suggests that manufacturers send samples, price lists, etc., direct to its office in Java. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

Wine, No. 18846.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm dealing in Spanish red wine desires to communicate with American importers in order to establish an agency in the United States.

Window glass, hardware, etc., No. 18847.—A firm in China has informed an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of window glass, hardware, and similar goods.

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No. 247 Washington, D. C., Thursday, October 21 1915

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SHIPMENT OF MUNITIONS TO MEXICO.

The following letter has been addressed by the President of the United States to the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the shipment of arms and ammunition to Mexico:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, October 19, 1915.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

I am informed by the Department of State that the recognized *de facto* government of Mexico is now in effective control of all the ports of entry in Mexico except those along the international boundary in the States of Chihuahua and Sonora and all the ports in Lower California.

An exception is hereby made to the prohibition against export created by the President's proclamation of October 19, 1915; and you will please instruct the collectors of ports and other officers of the Treasury Department to permit to be exported through United States customhouses munitions of war for the use of the recognized *de facto* Government of Mexico, or for industrial or commercial uses within the limits of the territory under its effective control, as above set forth. An embargo, therefore, will be immediately placed against the *border* ports in the States of Chihuahua and Sonora, as well as all ports in the Territory of Lower California, whether or not controlled by the recognized *de facto* Government of Mexico, and you will so instruct the appropriate collectors of customs and other officers of the Treasury Department.

Sincerely yours,

WOODROW WILSON.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

ST. LOUIS PLANS TO WIN MEXICAN TRADE.

[J. M. Bechtold, clerk in St. Louis office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Oct. 13.]

A special meeting of the Foreign Trade Bureau of the Business Men's League was called yesterday by Mr. Ernest F. Cramer, chairman, for the purpose of planning a selling campaign of St. Louis manufacturers in Mexico. A tour of Mexico was authorized, and a number of concerns have pledged themselves to have their representatives make the trip. It is intended that the tour shall include all important towns in the Republic that may be reached by railroad,

from the United States border to Central America. The date set for the departure of the delegation is December 1. It is planned that when the delegates reach a town they will separate at the railroad station, visit their prospective buyers and solicit orders, and let it be generally known that the manufacturers of this city are now willing and anxious to resume trade relations.

Mexico has always been a good market for St. Louis manufactures, and it is generally thought that before long all the salesmen who were recalled from that country and placed in domestic territories will be again sent there and that the business secured will exceed that of the best years during normal conditions.

TRANSFER OF FREIGHT VIA PANAMA.

[Announcement of Maj. F. C. Boggs, chief of Washington Office of the Panama Canal.]

Referring to the circular issued by this office on October 8, advising that, in view of the closing of the Panama Canal by slides, ships waiting at the Isthmus to transit the canal would, as far as practicable, be permitted to transfer freight across the Isthmus by rail at \$3 per ton, including all charges, it has been decided to continue exchanging cargoes of ships arriving at the canal during the month of October at the special emergency rate quoted above.

Effective with arrival of ships at the Panama Canal on and after November 1, 1915, and during such times as the canal may be closed to traffic, the Panama Railroad will transfer freight across the Isthmus at the following rates per ton of 2,000 pounds: Class 5, \$2; class 4, \$2.50; class 3, \$3.50; class 2, \$4.50; classes 1 and D $\frac{1}{2}$, \$5.50; classes D1 and D1 $\frac{1}{2}$, \$10; classes D2 and T1, \$15. Rates on specie, gold, silver, precious stones, etc., one-fourth of 1 per cent ad valorem. Steamers will be charged wharfage, craneage, and for stevedoring of their cargoes in and out. The above classes are based on the Panama Railroad Co.'s present local classifications, the rates being reduced as indicated.

All inquiries regarding the above-mentioned rates or as to other questions relating to transfer of cargo, etc., should be addressed to the Panama Railroad Co., 24 State Street, New York, N. Y., or to the Governor of the Panama Canal, Balboa Heights, Canal Zone.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION IN URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, Sept. 1, 1915.]

The President of Uruguay has asked the Congress, now in extra session, to consider, among other proposed laws, an extension of the functions of the Government insurance bank, which now issues only fire, life, and accident insurance policies. As a part of the policy for the encouragement of agriculture, the Executive urges that steps be taken toward Government insurance against loss by storms and death of live stock. Other measures recommended, with the same motive, are appropriations of funds to be used for prizes at cattle fairs and amendments to the existing veterinary inspection laws. Legislation is also urged for improved methods of collecting municipal taxes, for a reorganization of the post office and telegraph service, and for amendments to the law establishing a national board of health.

HUDDERSFIELD WOOLEN MARKET.

[Extract from Woolen Market Report for Sept. 21, transmitted by Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England.]

The woolen trade remains in a very active state, and in nearly all Colne Valley mills machinery is being run day and night. Indications point to a continuance of these conditions, almost every factor being in favor of the trade in cheap goods and adverse to that in fine worsteds. Business in fine cloths is very poor, and the outlook is gloomy, manufacturers fearing that unless there are developments in regard to army cloth they will not be able to keep more than half their machinery fully occupied.

The main difficulty in the worsted branch arises from the high rates which spinners demand for botany and other fine yarns. Manufacturers of women's dress goods are taking fine counts in large quantities, and this greatly enhances prices to makers of men's-wear fabrics, who are totally unable to command commensurate rates for the finished article.

Export Trade Is Slack.

More and more are merchants turning their attention to woolen imitations of the fine worsteds and tweeds—goods which can not profitably be made by manufacturers catering for the West End trade. Fine worsted producers are also heavily hit, but by the lack of over-sea business, the South American being the only foreign markets which are at all active.

The bulk of the business in cheap and medium woolen goods is for the home trade, the Colonial demand being much smaller than usual, though a slight improvement in Canadian business is reported. Wools sell steadily, and rates are firm for all except low grades.

CONDITION OF THE NOTTINGHAM LACE TRADE.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, Oct. 1.]

A slight improvement has taken place during the past week in the demand for laces. Some nice orders have been received for cotton flouncings in widths of 12 to 18 inches, and also for Calais valenciennes with filet effect. Allovers are not in great demand, but a few pleating laces are selling. Embroidery machines are well employed, and some orders are being placed for Barmen torchons. Some of the best orders are coming from the South American markets, but these are mainly for low and medium class goods. The curtain manufacturers are doing a fair amount of business, but in consequence of the shortage of labor, makers have been forced to raise their prices.

There is a strong demand for plain nets, although the difficulty in obtaining an adequate number of workers has materially restricted the output, with the result that prices have been forced to a higher level. The prospect of a continuance of activity in this branch is extremely bright.

The making-up trade remains in a very satisfactory condition, and the supply of blouses and neckwear is scarcely equal to the demand. There is a good demand for veilings, and all qualities meet with a ready sale.

PUSHING U. S. TRADE OF NORWAY, SWEDEN, AND RUSSIA.

Present activities of foreign trade organizations in the United States are indicated by announcements from Commercial Agent E. C. Porter at New York that a new chamber of commerce has been launched there to develop Norwegian trade with the United States; that the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in that city is steadily increasing its membership and activities after a year of existence; and that influential Russian interests have established a new publication with the purpose of developing Russian-American trade.

The Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce aims to build a center for trade information and to furnish a medium by which American manufacturers and exporters can be put in touch with Norwegian firms. It has the backing of commercial leaders in that country and is believed to be in a position to perform very valuable service. It will have permanent offices in New York City under the supervision of a staff of competent officials and will publish a monthly bulletin. It has established headquarters at 17 State Street.

Swedish Chamber of Commerce Doing Successful Work.

One of the most helpful agencies in the development of trade between United States and Scandinavian countries is the Swedish Chamber of Commerce, which was organized about a year ago. It has its headquarters at the Produce Exchange Annex, New York City. Its purpose is to create a medium of intercourse and central information in regard to the Scandinavian countries, and to furnish American manufacturers with specific requests in regard to trade. It has been doing very successful work, and is steadily increasing its membership.

The Russian-American Journal of Commerce will be issued monthly at New York, and will print its material both in English and Russian.

COMMERCE REPORTS has already printed references to the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in New York, on May 11, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce at San Francisco, on October 5, and Chinese chambers at New York and San Francisco, on October 2, 1915.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITS FOR DENMARK.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Netherlands, Sept. 20.]

Recently the secretary to the commercial attaché paid a visit to the permanent Industrial Exposition at Copenhagen, Denmark, where there are on display machinery, hardware, agricultural implements, and other manufactures, mostly Danish. Knowing the high merit of American wares, he considered this an excellent opportunity to acquaint the Danish people with the good qualities of similar American products. Upon his return he stated:

It occurred to me that here would be a splendid chance and place tellingly to illustrate the superiority of American goods, and perhaps utilize this as an effective avenue for the introduction of American industrial products by installing a small permanent exhibit. Such display should be in charge of an American representative who could intelligently explain the merits of the exhibited article to visitors and inquirers, of whom there seemed a steady and quite appreciable number.

The suggestion is presented for the consideration of American manufacturers.

TAKE CENSUS OF RED SALMON IN WOOD RIVER, ALASKA.

This year's census of the number of red salmon entering Lake Aleknagik, the first of the Wood River series of lakes in Alaska, shows a total of 248,900, compared with 2,600,655 in 1908, 893,244 in 1909, 670,104 in 1910, 354,299 in 1911, 325,264 in 1912, and 753,109 in 1913, no census having been taken in 1914. The work was done under the direction of the United States Bureau of Fisheries. The object of the census was to determine, if possible, the percentage of salmon in a given region which must be allowed to escape to the spawning grounds in order to maintain a normal supply.

Counting was begun on June 14, when 161 fish passed through the gates, and was continued through August 2, on which date the number of salmon passing had dwindled to 70. The maximum run occurred on July 7, when upward of 26,000 fish were noted. The total count of salmon was 259,271, of which number, according to an estimate of the enumerator, 3 per cent were humpbacks and 1 per cent dog salmon, leaving a balance of 248,900 red salmon; 37 king salmon also passed through the gates.

The comparatively small run of fish into Lake Aleknagik may perhaps be partly accounted for by the unusually mild weather experienced this year in the Nushagak region, which afforded favorable opportunities for the taking for the canneries of a large percentage of the run.

HARVESTING ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FARM.

[Sydney Herald, Sept. 6.]

TULLAMORE.—A new 60 horsepower Caterpillar engine and 24 Sunshine harvesters arrived on Friday for the New South Wales Government farm at Woodlands. It is intended to use this engine for hauling to and fro from Tullamore to Woodlands, and it is expected that the machine will pull 20 tons without any difficulty. Mr. B. Hart, engineer in charge at Woodlands, speaks very highly of the Caterpillar engines for all farm work. There are five on the area, and each one is to pull three harvesters. There are also 100 head of very fine draft horses. It is intended to work 10 reapers and binders, each to be drawn by horses. The crops on the whole area are looking splendid and, given another fall of rain, a big yield is assured. Fallowing is now in full swing, about 4,000 acres being completed. It is intended to fallow 15,000 acres this year. The clearing on the adjoining area of Orange Plains is being pushed on, but as most of the timber is green it is rather slow and expensive work as compared with the Woodlands area. The men on the clearing area are working under the butt system.

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

Consul Julius D. Dreher, formerly at Toronto, now en route to his new post at Colon, Panama, will be in New York for several days prior to his sailing on November 4. Trade conferences may be arranged by addressing the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 409 Customhouse, New York.

PERMANENT REPRESENTATION SHOULD BE SOUGHT.

[Commercial Agent E. E. Judd, New Orleans, Oct. 7.]

American consuls and other writers on export-trade subjects have from time to time called the attention of American manufacturers to the fallacy of giving representation for their lines in Latin-American countries to the representatives of European concerns, unless some contract is made guaranteeing that the representation will be continued after the European manufacturers are again in the market.

A striking instance of this, which has just come to the attention of this office, is in connection with the sale of stearic acid in Central America. This product was formerly supplied by the United States in considerable quantities, but some years ago a European house put a permanent representative in the field and captured practically the entire trade. The outbreak of the European war made it impossible for the Continental firm to fill orders from its home plant, and its Central American representative is reported to have been buying acid in the United States. Some American firm is doubtless congratulating itself on the profitable business which has come to it as a result of the war, not realizing that it is merely assisting a foreign competitor to hold together his customers until his own firm is again ready to take up the business. The American firm is missing a golden opportunity to put its own man in the field, get in touch with the native market, and build up a permanent, profitable business.

CHILEAN IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND DUTIES COLLECTED.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Aug. 31.]

Importations into Chile for the first six months of 1914 amounted to \$53,467,548 and for the first six months of 1915 to \$23,270,488, a decrease of \$30,197,060. Exportations from Chile for the first six months of 1914 amounted to \$65,730,877 and for the first six months of 1915 to \$47,708,272, a decrease of \$18,022,605. In the first six months of 1914 nitrate to the value of \$15,012,822 was exported, and for the corresponding period of 1915 exportations amounted to \$9,970,317, a decrease of \$5,042,505.

Import duties for the first six months of 1914 amounted to \$10,231,123 and for the corresponding period of 1915 to \$4,340,044, a decrease of \$5,891,079. Export duties for the first six months of 1914 amounted to \$15,143,071 and for the half year in 1915 to \$10,062,385, a decrease of \$5,080,686.

NAVIGATION LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The new edition of Navigation Laws for 1915 is now available, the last issue having been in 1911. The Bureau of Navigation has included in the new volume the new seamen's act of March 4, 1915, and a table of laws giving the sections of the Revised Statutes and subsequent laws, the date of enactment and amendment. It is a cloth-bound volume of 585 pages, and may be purchased at the nominal price of \$1 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

BRITISH CHEAP CLOTHING MANUFACTURE.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Scotland, Sept. 27.]

In a lecture a few days ago to the classes in the South of Scotland Technical College, Galashiels, Dr. Thomas Oliver, the principal, said that the great development of the ready-made clothing trade had been the most conspicuous feature of wool-cloth marketing in recent years.

The enormous amount of cheap female labor in London has determined the flow of this trade in that channel, and now London competes with Leeds for the honor of having the largest clothing trade in the United Kingdom. There also are to be found the very cheapest grades made up with the help of the low-priced labor offered in the East End of London. Some years ago suits were made to sell to the wearer at 9s. (\$2.19). The cloth could be bought in Leeds at 6½ d. (13 cents) per yard, 54 inches wide; 3¼ yards of cloth were required, so that the cloth cost was 1s. 9d. (42½ cents) per suit; the cost of making and trimming amounted to 3s. 3d. (79 cents), for the most part made on subcontract in "sweatshops." The clothing manufacturer was thus enabled to sell to the retailer at 6s. 9d. (\$1.64), but the increase in the cost of materials has changed these figures and now prices are 30 to 50 per cent higher. The new conditions in clothing manufacture in Scotland were thus described by Dr. Oliver:

Thirty years ago Glasgow was a very important center of distribution of wool cloths for the tailoring trade, but the merchant trade of Glasgow has largely disappeared, owing to so many of the firms taking up the ready-made line. The rise of the ready-to-wear branch of the industry has been a strong temptation to the economical buyer. If he can buy a satisfactory suit at 25s. (\$6.08) to 30s. (\$7.30), there is little likelihood that he will invest £3 (\$14.60) to £4 (\$19.46) in a suit. So a tailoring business which at one time employed about 40 hands is now reduced to, say, 3 men, while the clothier is everywhere in evidence offering the ready-to-wear garments. Some of these are marvelous productions. Last year, before the war, a firm in Leith was offering suits made to measure at 15s. (\$3.65) from cloth on view in the shop. The cloth was not the old-fashioned article, with cotton warp and weft, but consisted of a twist made up of woolen and cotton threads in both warp and weft, and was a good imitation of a fancy woolen cloth.

Last month in another city I saw that one tailor was offering a very fair production at 16s. 11d. (\$4.11), made to measure. I handled the cloth, and, even allowing that the price was a special offer during the cheap-sale period, I can not figure out where the profits came in to the various firms concerned. Division of labor is nowhere in greater evidence than in the manufacture of clothing. In the recent boom in army requirements clothing firms have been constrained to sublet part of their contracts. They have allowed subcontractors 5s. 6d. (\$1.34) per overcoat and about the same price for a suit for making, with all material supplied. Before the war lower prices were obtained.

A method which is gaining ground in the provincial towns is for tailors, instead of ordering cloth from the merchants, to send the measurements of their customers to the clothing manufacturers, who in a few days sends back to the tailor a finished garment. The tailor may make any slight alteration required, and the customer is under the impression that the suit is made on the tailor's premises. The system has the advantage that the garments are well made and allows a tailor with small knowledge of the business to get along without engaging an experienced cutter, and he is not burdened with keeping a number of tailors, who would only be irregularly employed according as the fluctuations of the seasons imposed. The same system has also been introduced in costume departments, but has not gained such a foothold, because ladies usually are not satisfied unless they get a number of "fittings on," with numerous alterations, and those who are less fastidious can buy from a draper a garment ready to wear.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

ARGENTINA.

[Boletín Oficial, Aug. 3, 1915.]

Classification of Iron and Steel Beams.

A presidential decree, published August 3, 1915, establishes the following tariff classifications for certain iron and steel beams and structural shapes imported into Argentina. I-shaped iron of more than 7 centimeters (2.76 inches) maximum thickness, whether or not perforated, is to be considered as heavy beams and classified under tariff No. 1150, at the rate of 25 per cent on an official valuation of 0.04 peso per kilo. Beams joined together or riveted shapes, forming a double T, are assimilated to "wrought iron not specified in the tariff" and made dutiable under No. 1153, at 25 per cent on a valuation of 0.10 peso per kilo. Structural shapes which have been subjected to some process after rolling, such as cutting, filing, bending, etc., are also classified under No. 1153, unless they are imported as knockdown parts of columns, posts, etc., in which case they are dutiable under No. 1152, at 25 per cent on a valuation of 0.08 peso per kilo. A surtax of 2 per cent of the valuation is to be added to all the rates above quoted. [Peso, \$0.965.]

BRAZIL.

[Ambassador Edwin T. Morgan, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 6, 1915.]

Proposed Regulations for Samples and Advertising Matter.

Efforts have been made from time to time to obtain more favorable customs treatment for samples of commercial travelers, as well as for advertising matter, imported into Brazil, and it is now stated that the budget committee of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies has reported favorably on a proposal to incorporate in the budget law for 1916 new and more liberal regulations on this subject. If the proposed article is included in the new budget law, which will go into effect January 1, 1916, as now appears probable, commercial travelers in Brazil will be greatly facilitated in the discharge of their business.

According to the proposed legislation, samples accompanying commercial travelers are to be exempt from duty, provided a bond for their reexportation within such time limit as the customs authorities may prescribe is furnished, or the amount of duty leviable deposited pending such reexportation. In this respect they are assimilated to articles imported for exhibition purposes, for which the present tariff provides temporary free admission under bond. Samples are to be accompanied by a certificate of origin duly legalized and a detailed list of their number and character. A reduction of 50 per cent in the duties on illustrated catalogues, circulars, posters, and advertising cards of all kinds is also provided for, and a similar reduction is proposed in the case of articles such as pocket knives, pencil holders, cigarette cases, etc., intended exclusively for distribution as advertisements and bearing on their surface an indication of such destined use.

[At present there is no legal authority, according to a recent report of the Brazilian Minister of Finance, for the temporary free admission of travelers' samples. It has therefore usually been necessary, in order to obtain exemption from import duty, to make

the samples entirely unsalable by mutilation or other means, involving considerable delay and inconvenience at the customhouse.]

MADAGASCAR.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave, May 12, 1915.]

Marking of Cotton Goods.

According to a Madagascar decree published May 8, 1915, which is to go into effect one year from the date of publication; if cotton goods (bleached and unbleached) imported into the colony and its dependencies bear on their surface a statement as to length, the measurement must be expressed in terms of the metric system and in French. Measurements stated otherwise will be permitted only when the corresponding length in meters is indicated in figures of equal size. A maximum variation of 2 per cent between the actual length and that stamped on the goods is allowed.

SALVADOR.

New Customs Tariff.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is in receipt of a copy of the new customs tariff recently enacted in Salvador, which is to go into effect January 1, 1916. Information concerning the new rates of duty will be furnished to those interested upon request. [It is expected that a translation of the new tariff will be published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in the near future.]

[Diario Oficial, Sept. 18.]

Certificates of Purity for Lard.

A presidential decree of September 18, 1915, requires that all lard imported into Salvador after December 1, 1915, be accompanied by a duly legalized certificate of purity, setting forth the quantity and quality of the shipment. The Salvadorian consuls in the country of exportation are forbidden to certify the invoices for lard shipments unless such a document is furnished.

[Lard was declared exempt from customs duty and surtaxes upon importation into Salvador by a decree of Jan. 29, 1915, as reported in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 16, p. 91.]

SWEDEN.

[Chargé d'Affaires Jefferson Caffery, Stockholm, Aug. 14, 1915.]

Reduction on Sugar.

A royal decree of August 13, 1915, prescribes the following reductions in the rates of duty on sugar imported into Sweden, to go into effect January 1, 1916 (kilo, 2.2046 pounds; crown, \$0.268):

	Rate of duty.	
	Old.	New.
Sugar:	<i>Crown per kilo.</i>	<i>Crown per kilo.</i>
Refined, all kinds.....	0.11	0.105
Not refined—		
Not below No. 13 Dutch standard in color .....	.11	.105
Below No. 13 Dutch standard in color (even if imported in a liquid state) ..	.08	.075

The drawback on refined sugar is reduced from 0.11 to 0.08 crown per kilo.

COPPER MINING BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

[Extract from Peking Daily News of Sept 2, by Commercial Attaché Julian H. Arnold, Peking.]

Yunnan Province is one of the richest copper districts of the world. The late Ch'ing dynasty depended on the copper supply from that Province for the minting of copper cash. The Imperial Government appointed officials to supervise the mining works, and at one time the Yunnan mines regularly shipped 6,000,000 catties (catty=1½ pounds) of copper to Peking every year. The best mines are situated in the Tungchuan district. During the Taiping rebellion the mining operations were suspended, the regular supply of copper to Peking was cut off, and the Imperial Government has had to resort to minting 10-cash copper pieces so as to save material. After the Taiping rebellion not much success has been obtained in running the mining works.

Upon the establishment of the Republican Government the copper mines were taken over by the Tungchuan Mining Co. This company had a capital of \$300,000, the Government supplying one-half of the capital. But the capital has never been fully subscribed, and the company has never secured satisfactory results in the development of the mines. Consequently the output is limited, and as the adoption of antiquated native methods means greater expenses, the price quoted by the company for its copper is high. Thus the various Government mints found it unprofitable to purchase Yunnan copper, and therefore the raw material for the minting of copper coins was all secured from Japan and other countries.

The Government recently organized the Gold Mining Bureau, under the Ministry of Finance, to control the gold, silver, copper, and other metals necessary for the minting of coins. The Ministry of Finance now requests that a high official be appointed to superintend the development of the copper mines at Tungchuan. The Tungchuan Mining Co. will be taken over by the Government, so that better results may be secured. The lead and zinc mines will also be developed under official supervision. Mr. Sung Lien-kuei has been appointed director general of the Tungchuan mines.

STARCH SHORTAGE IN IRELAND.

[Consul Wesley Frost, Cork (Queenstown), Sept. 28.]

Laundry starch is now costing \$6.81 per 112 pounds, this being an average figure for the average grade. The single starch factory at Cork is curtailing its deliveries, and the leading English starch firms are also unable to serve their customers promptly or at normal prices.

The use of laundry starch in the south of Ireland, while not as prevalent as in the United States, is considerable. The city of Cork has three laundries, while Queenstown, Buttevant, Youghal, and a number of other large towns have laundry establishments. The string of hotels conducted by the Great Southern & Western Railway Co. have their own laundry plants. Prominent dealers at Cork buy in lots of two tons, more or less. The starch must be absolutely pure white.

[The address of a starch dealer at Cork who has asked the consulate for an American connection may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 67279.]

ARGENTINE FOREIGN COMMERCE, FIRST HALF OF 1915.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Aug. 24; supplementing dispatch in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 23, 1915.]

Statistics of the foreign commerce of Argentina for the first six months of 1915, by countries, are:

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	First half of 1915.	Increase or decrease from 1914.	First half of 1915.	Increase or decrease from 1914.
United Kingdom.....	\$34,276,560	—\$22,180,506	\$73,153,749	+\$17,055,394
United States.....	18,580,397	— 1,697,605	38,888,889	+ 16,142,760
Italy.....	9,275,524	— 4,578,096	29,514,898	+ 26,233,419
France.....	5,422,797	— 9,054,182	24,239,157	+ 9,005,070
Spain.....	5,097,906	+ 337,888	3,858,440	+ 2,990,507
Germany.....	4,362,538	— 24,379,921		
Holland.....	1,853,579	— 632,455	9,943,817	+ 3,133,960
Austria-Hungary.....	150,707	— 1,534,615		
Belgium.....	631,602	— 7,908,425		
Brazil.....	4,666,886	+ 191,727		
Paraguay.....	940,891	+ 15,759	634,724	+ 14,113
Uruguay.....	842,510	— 538,364	3,336,302	+ 1,140,543
Chile.....	338,727	+ 137,712	784,063	+ 57,351
Bolivia.....	173,917	+ 37,229		
Exports to order.....			90,986,655	+ 49,523,309

It is estimated that about 60 per cent of the "exports to order" were for British account. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Belgium have disappeared from the export list, although it must be considered almost certain that at least the first two have received Argentine products to a large extent through neutral countries. In the first half of 1914 Argentine exports sent to these three countries were: Germany, \$26,994,037; Belgium, \$15,119,662; Austria-Hungary, \$1,152,444.

Import duties in the first half of 1915 amounted to \$18,787,713, a decrease of \$12,333,079.

MANUFACTURERS' SALES METHODS.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Venezuela, Sept. 25.]

So many criticisms of American business methods are heard that it is well to mention an occasional complimentary statement that is made. An automobile agent in this district was approached by a person who, considering himself entitled to special treatment, proposed to purchase a car, but demanded that the agent relinquish his commission in favor of the purchaser. The proposition was declined, and no sale was made. This individual, however, going to New York shortly after, bought one of the cars while there. The manufacturers, solely because of the shipping directions, sent the entire commission to their Venezuelan agent who by telling the story somewhat gleefully is thus stimulating further interest in American trade.

A Trinidad newspaper commenting on the arrival of four American automobiles for Ciudad Bolivar states that there are now 50 motor cars, all of American make, in that Venezuelan metropolis on the Orinoco River. American cars, however, have been much farther up the Orinoco than Ciudad Bolivar. In the dry season the trip from Caracas to San Fernando de Apure is frequently made; it requires about 48 hours driving.

IRON-ORE SHIPMENTS FROM NARVIK TO CONTINUE.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sweden, Sept. 13.]

Owing to recent seizures of a number of Swedish steamers carrying iron ore from the Norwegian port of Narvik to Rotterdam, it was reported that it was the intention of the Trafik-Aktiebolaget Grangesberg-Oxelösund to discontinue shipments from Narvik. The company, however, states that this report is incorrect, and that it is its intention to continue shipments as heretofore. This will be of interest in the United States, for the reason that about 300,000 tons of Lapland ore are being exported to Philadelphia each year. These shipments will continue.

The truth of the matter is that if shipments ceased from the port of Narvik, the mining industry in Lapland would practically come to an end, as the Finnish Bay port of Lulea is icebound during seven months of the year. This would place Sweden also, for the time being, dependent solely upon the German market, a condition which would seriously affect the ore output on the whole.

The exportation of iron ore from the port of Oxelosund is on the increase. This ore goes chiefly to Germany. The traffic in the Baltic has not thus far been interfered with. It has been the practice of the Trafik-Aktiebolaget Grangesberg-Oxelösund to have continually in store at Oxelosund something like 100,000 tons of ore. The exportations have been such that the supply now actually on hand at this port amounts to but 45,000 tons.

Arrangements Made to Double Output.

The daily supply of iron ore from the Grangesberg district in central Sweden is 2,000 tons, but arrangements are being made to double the output. A special road is now being constructed in Oxelosund, and it is the intention of the Grangesberg Company to send bottom-tipping ore cars from Gellivaara in Lapland in order to be able to handle more easily the increased demands upon the loading capacity of the quay at Oxelosund.

According to the "Affärsvärlden" of September 8, 1915, the Iron Association, at a meeting held in Stockholm August 31, reported:

The conditions of sale for export have been unfavorable for the more important products of the Swedish iron trade, except pig iron, throughout the first half year. The quantities exported during that time, partly of ingot and steel blooms, partly of ready-rolled bar and fine iron, fall even under the low figures of the first half of 1914. An improvement, has, however, asserted itself in July and August, with more lively demand and increased export; and as the home consumption is also good, the rolling mills are busily engaged, whereas the demand for steel blooms and hammered iron is still very insignificant. The export of pig iron has also been checked. Other difficulties, caused by the war, oppress the iron industry. Hard coal can now scarcely be obtained from abroad. The difficulties in procuring other important necessities from abroad are still greater, in some respects insurmountable, and the prices that have to be paid are, as everybody knows, raised beyond all reasonable limits. Owing to these difficulties, and the general unsafety, caution regarding future sales is still advisable.

[Chargé d'Affaires Jefferson Caffery, American Legation, Stockholm, Sept. 6.]

Export of Iron Products Very Poor During Year.

With the exception of pig iron, the export of iron products was very poor during the last year. During July and August, however, the demand has been greater and the exportation a little more lively, and as the demand within Sweden is satisfactory the iron plants

have had plenty of work. The demand for wrought iron has been very small, and exportation has had many difficulties because of measures taken by the belligerent countries. Other obstacles in the way of the iron industry are the difficulty in getting anthracite coal, and the difficulty and almost impossibility of getting certain other products that are necessary.

A report shows that on June 30 there were 109 smelting furnaces in action out of 125; 168 Lancashire forges out of 255; 14 Bessemer furnaces out of 24; 59 Martin furnaces out of 75. On July 31 there were in action 108 smelting furnaces, 14 Bessemer, and 61 Martin furnaces. The production from January 1 to July 31 was:

Class of production.	1914	1915	Class of production.	1914	1915
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Pig iron.....	432,200	426,500	Martin iron.....	284,800	282,400
Bloom.....	78,300	65,200	Rolled iron and steel.....	.....	218,300
Bessemer iron.....	63,000	62,200			

The importation of iron and steel has greatly decreased. During the first half of 1915 there were 35,400 tons less imported than in the corresponding time last year.

NEW ZEALAND COMMERCIAL NOTES.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 15.]

War Increase for Food Products.

The average increase in retail prices of food products in the 25 more important towns and cities in New Zealand from July 31, 1914, to July 15, 1915, was 12.15 per cent, with the greatest advance for groceries.

Large Exports.

The exports from New Zealand during August, 1915, amounted to \$9,668,441 against \$13,448,889 for July, August, and September, in 1914, with heavy exports for the first half of September. A large portion of the above exports consisted of frozen beef and mutton.

Imports from the United Kingdom.

Imports from the United Kingdom to New Zealand during June decreased 12½ per cent over June, 1914, while there was a 5 per cent decline for the June quarter against a 23 per cent decline for the March quarter, as compared with 1914. Imports of china and earthen ware for June suffered most, being only about 50 per cent of normal, with woollens and worsteds next at about 75 per cent.

Wheat and Oats in New Zealand.

According to a special grain census taken in New Zealand, there were 4,161,805 bushels of wheat and 2,391,361 bushels of oats in the country, which is more than enough to supply the local demand until another harvest.

New Zealand Government Debt.

The national debt of New Zealand on March 31, 1915, was \$486,-941,552, of which \$118,358,536 falls due before March 31, 1922. Of this, public works, such as railways, public buildings, telegraph and telephone lines, roads and bridges, water-power development, etc., account for \$249,231,437, and advances to settlers, workers, and local authorities for \$71,238,776.

ANTUNG TRADE FOR SECOND QUARTER OF YEAR.

[Consul John K. Davis, Antung, China, Aug. 19.]

Chinese customs returns at Antung show that during the second quarter of 1915 the amount of import duty collected was \$24,305, American currency, less than in the corresponding quarter of 1914. However, this was more than counterbalanced by an increase in export duty of \$34,588.

The chief item of interest in the Antung trade returns for the June quarter of 1915 is the decrease in the imports of Japanese cotton goods into Manchuria through this port.

As a result of the inauguration of lower freight rates on through shipments over the Chosen and South Manchurian railways, a considerable portion of the Japanese cotton goods has undoubtedly been diverted to this port from Dairen, and it is a remarkable fact that in spite of the increase thus resulting, practically every line of Japanese cottons shows an appreciable decrease.

A large increase in exports of beans, bean cake, and cereals was due to the unusually fine crops gathered throughout this district last year, which were held until this year for market. Silk products show an increase this year because of the unfavorable market obtaining in 1914, with the consequent reduction of exports at that time. Timber increases were due to the floods in the autumn of 1914, which brought down an abnormally large number of logs.

Drop in Prices of Manufactured Cotton.

The prices of Japanese piece goods, sheetings, drills, jeans, and imitation native cloth have been about 20 per cent lower than for the corresponding quarter in 1914. This has been occasioned by the same factors that produced a decrease in the imports of these goods. The price of cotton yarn also fell about 20 per cent, but the steady demand and the fact that the Chinese mills could not produce a sufficient supply to satisfy it combined to keep the price of the imported article more steady.

Increases in prices of metals were: Zinc, 200 per cent; galvanized-iron sheets, 100 per cent; brass, 60 per cent; galvanized-iron wire, 50 per cent; iron plates and sheets, 40 per cent; copper, 40 per cent; wire nails, 30 per cent.

Sugar has increased in price by about 50 per cent, but the market has been rather dull. The importation of foreign flour was 6,169,866 pounds in 1914, but none was imported in 1915, on account of the great demand in Europe, and the consequently small supply and high prices of American flour. The increase in the receipts of native flour from 4,529,000 pounds in 1914 to 8,608,800 is a natural result of the decrease in the foreign article.

One result of the shortage of dyestuffs during the quarter was the systematic and thorough manner in which the Japanese went through this district gathering up and reexporting to Japan all stocks of dyes. This district was carefully combed and any new consignments were also quickly bought up and sent to Japan.

An elaborately illustrated volume issued by the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association (Ltd.), of Manchester, which outlines the development of the cotton industry of Lancashire, England, has been added to the library of the Department of Commerce through the courtesy of Consul R. E. Holaday.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Paper, No. 18848.—An American consular officer in France reports that a commission agent in his district desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of all articles and raw materials required in the paper trade. Reference is given.

Leather goods, jewelry, tobaccoconists' supplies, etc., No. 18849.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a business man in the Fiji Islands desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of novelties, such as cheap watches, clocks, imitation and rolled jewelry, electric torches, leather goods, electric plated ware, tobaccoconists' goods, cutlery, toys, and trick goods. Correspondence should be in English.

Foodstuffs, No. 18850.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Spain that a firm dealing in preserved vegetables, peppers, etc., desires to communicate with American firms interested in that line of goods.

Carpets and rugs, china and earthen ware, etc., No. 18851.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a merchant in his district desires to receive catalogues, price-lists, samples, etc., from American manufacturers and exporters of unmounted plate-glass mirrors, mouldings for frames of all kinds, carpets and rugs, chinaware and glassware, wool and mixed blankets, wrapping paper, paper for making flowers, and paper flowers. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred, although English may be used.

Tobacco, No. 18852.—A business firm in Denmark has informed an American consular officer that it desires to represent American exporters of leaf tobacco. Correspondence may be in English.

Gasoline and lubricating oils, No. 18853.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that a business man in his district desires to secure the agency for American motor spirits and lubricating oils. He desires to contract for the territory of Magallanes and the southern part of Argentina. The spirits should be of a high and uniform quality. In order to avoid delay in the receipt of samples, they should be sent by ordinary mail, when possible, marked "Muestras sin valor" (samples without value) instead of by parcels post.

Tartaric products, No. 18854.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Spain that a firm desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of tartaric products.

Rubber stamp materials, etc., No. 18855.—A manufacturer in Russia has informed an American consular officer that he desires to establish business relations with American manufacturers or exporters of material and equipment required for the manufacture of rubber stamps and engraving work. Correspondence should be in Russian or German.

Construction materials, arsenal equipment, etc., No. 18856.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a merchant in his district desires to receive catalogues, prices, etc., of building materials, machinery, and appliances for the construction and equipment of an arsenal. Further information may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

Brandies, etc., No. 18857.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm in his district desires to establish business relations with American importers of brandies, liquors, etc.

General agency, No. 18858.—A firm of commission agents in Chile has informed an American consular officer that it desires to secure the agency for American goods of all kinds. No particular line is mentioned. The firm is also willing to purchase for American importers such Chilean products as algarobilla beans, hides, nuts, linseed, quillai bark, nitrate, etc.

Staves, No. 18859.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase staves for the manufacture of wine pipes. Large quantities will be bought if suitable quotations are made. Correspondence may be in English. Terms desired are "cash against documents." Reference is given.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 2735.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 9, 1915, for furnishing the following materials. Firms interested therein should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving the schedule numbers desired: Schedule 8902, steel cap screws; schedule 8903, universal grinding machine and wire feed screw machines; schedule 8904, furnishing and erecting wooden water tanks; schedule 8905, furnishing and installing exhaust system; schedule 8906, polishing and buffing lathes; schedule 8907, watch-mark braid, whisk brooms, combs, cotton handkerchiefs, and needles; schedule 8909, furnishing and erecting forging furnace; schedule 8910, steel hoop and locking ring forgings; schedule 8911, rubber air hose and drawing and tracing plan sheets; schedule 8912, power gap shear and rotary shear with circular cutting extension; schedule 8913, blowers to deliver 1,000 cubic feet of air per minute; schedule 8917, bolts and nuts, brass chain, boat chains, files, adjustable hack-saw frames, brass spur grommets, steel nuts, planes, hammock rings, copper tacks, portable electric drills, and electric bench grinders; schedule 8918, window glass, wash deck rubber hose, unlined linen hose, pump leather, and cotton twine; schedule 8919, paint drier, dry white lead, and pure lard oil; schedule 8920, steel shapes and sheet steel; schedule 8921, megaphones; schedule 8922, hot-rolled or forged carbon steel and medium steel "I" beams; schedule 8923, single conductor wire; schedule 8924, bar steel, brass pet cocks, admiralty metal condenser tubes, check valves, and gate valves; and schedule 8925, water-gauge glasses, hard rubber in sheets, and insulating varnish. Bids will also be received until November 16, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8908, radio motor generator; schedule 8914, grade No. 1 glycerine; schedule 8915, bells for motor boats, sal ammoniac, and 32-inch wide mattress ticking; and schedule 8916, crystal oxalic acid.

Construction work, No. 2736.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Room 415, Customhouse, Cincinnati, Ohio, until November 1, 1915, for reconstructing, in concrete, part of abutment at Dam No. 1, Muskingum River, Ohio. Specifications, blue prints, and further information may be had on application to the above-named office and at the United States Engineer Suboffice at Zanesville, Ohio.

Oil tanks, No. 2737.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 16, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock, at either Colon or Cristobal (Atlantic ports) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama or furnishing and erecting steel oil-storage tanks. Circular No. 931.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2738.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, copper cable and wire, steel reinforcing bars, steel wire, poultry netting, bolts, nuts, rivets, nails, lag screws, boat spikes, washers, pipe fittings, ship augers, twist drills, winch, hinges, key blanks, hammers, coal baskets, street lamps, water-gauge lamps, hose, packing, rubber bands, pencils, cardboard, Japan oil, locomotive black, yellow ocher, yellow chrome, and lumber. Circular No. 979.

Iron and steel scrap, No. 2739.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 15, 1915, for the purchase of miscellaneous iron and steel scrap which is no longer needed. Circular No. 980.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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Washington, D. C., Friday, October 22

1915

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SUCCESSFUL SALE OF GOVERNMENT FURS.

Excellent prices were realized for the United States Government's Alaska fox and beaver skins at St. Louis, on October 21, the public auction for which was announced in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 11 and 16, 1915. The following telegram, dated October 21, has been received by the Secretary of Commerce from Funsten Bros. & Co., of St. Louis:

We sold Government furs this morning as follows: Blue fox at an average of \$114.47, against \$42.21 average previous sale (in December, 1913, which was the first sale in the United States), an advance of 171 per cent. White fox at an average of \$24.55, against \$14.77 previous sale, an advance of 66 per cent. Beaver at an average of \$12.75. All Government furs sold at highest prices on record.

CHINESE IN UNITED STATES START PACIFIC LINE.

The China Mail Steamship Co., financed wholly by Chinese in the United States, has been organized on the Pacific Coast, for traffic between San Francisco and China. A telegram from Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, at San Francisco, to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, announces that the former Pacific Mail liner *China*, which has been secured by the new company, will inaugurate the service with a sailing on October 30.

Mr. Babbitt reports that the capital of the China Mail Steamship Co. is \$2,100,000. Besides acquiring the *China* the company is said to hold options on other steamships. Mr. Look Tin Eli, president of the Canton Bank of San Francisco, has been active in the negotiations that preceded the formation of the China Mail Co. The original plan called for the cooperation of Chinese on both sides of the ocean. San Francisco Chinese, however, have intimated that they preferred to have the project financed in this country.

The *China* is a vessel of 5,060 gross tons and 3,186 net.

NEW PUBLICATION OF BRITISH COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has been studying British commercial organizations, and has just published a booklet that is full of concrete, pertinent facts on the subject. The world-encircling foreign commerce of the United Kingdom bulks large in the consideration of every phase of international economics; it is a factor to be reckoned with in the most famous marts and in distant jungle and desert stations. Americans engaged in developing export trade observe its manifestations in many lands, but with the system back of this activity, the methods and conduct of commercial affairs in the United Kingdom itself, the way in which the British Government fosters and directs expansion, the people of the United States are, perhaps, not so familiar.

As long ago as 1912 the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the British Board of Trade received 16,488 inquiries concerning trade possibilities, and in replying to these the branch was enabled to draw on a store of information supplied by a corps of investigators covering every section of the globe. If British exporters want concrete samples, the Government has available for inspection such articles as cotton vests from Bushire, Persia; raisins from Azerbaijan; antimony from Chungking, China; "kieselguhr" from Chile; hosiery and overalls from South Africa.

The title of this new publication of the Bureau is "Commercial Organizations in the United Kingdom," and its author is Mr. Archibald J. Wolfe, who has investigated the subject on the ground. In its 53 pages are included lists of all British chambers of commerce and a discussion of their methods and functions, a detailed account of the State aid to trade, and a description of manufacturers' and employers' organizations in all the leading industries.

This pamphlet is Special Agents Series No. 102, and 5 cents will bring it from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

URUGUAY ENDS NEGOTIATIONS FOR AMERICAN LOAN.

[American Minister Robert Emmett Jeffery, Montevideo, Sept. 4.]

There has just appeared in the local press a semiofficial statement to the effect that the Government had resolved to "desist" from the negotiations which have been in progress with American bankers for a loan of \$10,000,000. The statement explains that the Government desires to place the loan at 93, and that the bankers having required a new extension of time to consider this proposition, it had been decided to abandon the negotiations. The statement further suggests that, in any event, the financial situation of the Government is now reacting favorably and that the necessity for the loan no longer exists.

Navassa Island Light Station Contract Awarded.

The contract for furnishing and delivering all the materials (except the metal work and lantern glass) and labor for the erection of Navassa Island Light Station, West Indies, in the sum of \$89,800, has been awarded by the Secretary of Commerce to the Snare & Triest Co., 233 Broadway, New York, N. Y. The contract calls for the completion of the station within 18 months from October 8, 1915,

OPENING A RAILWAY TUNNEL IN TURKEY.

[Consul General G. Ble Ravndal, Constantinople, Sept. 3.]

Undoubtedly the most important event in railroad construction in Turkey to date is the recent completion of the large tunnel on the Bagdad Railroad piercing the Amanus Mountains on the border between Asia Minor and Syria. It is known as the Baghtché Tunnel, taking its name from the station of Baghtché, at its northern entrance, about 75 miles east of the city of Adana and some 60 miles northwest of Aleppo.

With the completion of this tunnel the most serious difficulties connected with the construction of the Bagdad Railroad have been overcome, and the work of connecting up many of the isolated stretches of track may be expected to be completed with reasonable rapidity. In spite of delays occasioned by the war, this most important undertaking in railroad construction in Turkey has passed the problematical stage and is now certain to become an accomplished fact in the near future.

The following details, taken from a recent issue of the local "Osmanischer Lloyd," throw interesting light upon the importance of the Baghtché Tunnel from a technical point of view:

Leaving Mamoure, last station on the Bagdad Railway in the Cilician plain, the line begins, at the foot of Amanus Mountains, to ascend, at a grade of 394 feet, the slopes of these mountains, which are intercepted by ravines crossed by means of eight steel bridges and seven small tunnels, the latter having a total length of 6,355 feet. Thus it arrives at Baghtche station, situated at an altitude of 1,754 feet, near the entrance of the great tunnel which bears its name. Before reaching the mouth of the tunnel the line runs through two other tunnels, having a length of 236 and 394 feet, respectively, and over a small bridge.

The great tunnel has a length of 16,028 feet. For about 8,000 feet it ascends to 246 feet above the level of the entrance, and then begins to descend and emerges at the other end 197 feet above the level of the entrance. Between this point and Ishahle station, which is still building, there are four more tunnels having a combined length of 3,500 feet. The total length of the tunnels it has been necessary to construct in crossing this chain of mountains is therefore a little more than 26,250 feet.

The great tunnel with its length of more than 3 miles is by far the longest in Turkey. It is only exceeded in length by the great tunnels in the Alps and elsewhere. Still, the technical difficulties which had to be overcome in piercing through have been just as great as those encountered in the Alps. In fact, for several hundred yards, the engineers encountered a rock of practically pure quartz, which was so hard that it was necessary to have recourse to boring machines of special construction.

ASIATIC APPLES FOR AUSTRALIA.

[Consul General Ransford S. Miller, Seoul, Chosen, Sept. 9.]

A Chosen newspaper announces that an order for 500 and 5,000 cases of two varieties of apples has lately been received by the Fruit Growers' Guild at Taiku, Chosen, for export to Australia, the export being undertaken by the Nagasaki branch of a British company in London. The firm has hitherto been exporting apples produced in Aomori Prefecture in Japan, but having recently heard of the good reputation of apples produced in Taiku has decided on making the above venture. The agent who came to Taiku to negotiate with the fruit growers is said to have declared that Taiku apples are very good in quality.

MEXICAN OIL PRODUCTION.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Tampico, Oct. 9.]

During the week of September 9, one of the biggest gushers in the Mexican fields was brought in by George Harmon. The well is located in the Panuco field less than 100 feet from the big Dutch-Shell gusher which has an estimated production of 100,000 barrels of oil per day. The oil was struck at a depth of 2,120 feet, or 314 feet deeper than the Dutch-Shell well. As a 55,000-barrel tank had already been constructed on the lease, all the oil was saved and accurate gauge of the well was made. In about 15 hours the tank was filled and the well was shut in without any leakage. This well is estimated as being capable of producing 90,000 barrels per day.

New Drilling Decree.

A decree was issued on August 14 prohibiting oil companies from drilling for the production of crude oil within 30 meters (98½ feet) of the boundaries of their lands. It is understood that this decree will not be retroactive and, consequently, will not affect the wells now being drilled within the 30-meter zone.

Difficulties in Making Crude-Oil Shipments.

The shipments of crude oil from Tampico to United States ports during September amounted to 809,728 barrels, as compared with 951,589 barrels shipped during September of the preceding year. This decrease was due to a great extent to the condition of the harbor. The heavy sea caused by the recent hurricanes in the Gulf, combined with a freshet in the Panuco River, caused a sand bar to be formed about 165 feet from the end of the jetties on which there is only about 19 feet of water. The Huasteca tanker *Charles E. Harwood* was the first steamer to leave after the storm and struck the bar, drawing 21 feet. The stern post was bent and several blades were broken off the propeller. After pumping about 5,000 barrels of oil overboard, the steamer was floated and towed back to Tampico. Since then the pilots have refused to take any ships out of Tampico drawing over 17 feet, which means that they can carry only about one-third of a cargo. A number of oil ships have been laying in Tampico for over 10 days, waiting for the pilots to sound the bar and see if there is not a deeper channel, as it would be unprofitable to sail with one-third of a cargo.

A Suction Dredge Proposed—Shipments to United States.

Negotiations are now pending between the oil companies and the Government in regard to raising money to bring a seagoing suction dredge from the United States to keep the bar open, and it is most probable that a satisfactory arrangement will be made, as it is vitally important to the oil companies as well as to the Mexican Government that the Tampico Harbor be kept open. A channel of about 24 feet could be maintained in this manner.

Barrel shipments were made to United States ports during September as follows: 147,682 to Baltimore; 115,887 to New Orleans; 100,326 to Port Arthur, Tex.; 93,000 to New York; 88,070 to Lynchburg, Tex.; 75,120 to Tampa; 49,087 to Port Cristobal, Canal Zone; 40,000 to Sabine, Tex.; 33,251 to Aransas Pass, Tex.; 32,305

to Freeport, Tex.; 20,000 to Warner, N. J.; and 15,000 to Baton Rouge, La.

Barrel shipments from Tuxpam by the Compania Mexicana de Petroleo "El Aguila" S. A. included 63,950 to New York; 48,884 to Carteret, N. J.; 126,384 to Philadelphia; and 40,502 to Baton Rouge, La. The statistics of shipments made by the Penn Mexican Oil Co. from Tuxpam during September are not yet available.

SEPTEMBER, 1915, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND TRADE BALANCE.

Figures to-day made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reveal new high records in American export trade and export balance. September, 1915, exports totaled \$297,766,750 and exceeded by \$79,526,749 the total for September, 1913, and by \$141,714,417 that for September, 1914. September imports this year aggregated \$151,422,831, being less by \$19,662,012 than those of September, 1913, and more by \$11,712,220 than those of September last year.

Nine months' exports this year totaled \$2,529,575,095, compared with \$1,467,401,989 last year and \$1,733,422,158 two years ago. Imports for the nine months' period of 1915 were valued at \$1,302,281,591, against \$1,410,071,874 last year and \$1,327,385,071 two years ago.

The September export balance was \$146,343,919, being nine times as much as the export balance of \$16,341,722 in September, 1914, and only \$41,693,371 short of the export balance for the entire fiscal year 1910. The nine months ending with September last show an export balance of \$1,227,293,504, an increase of \$1,170,000,000 over that for the corresponding period of 1914 and \$821,256,417 over that of 1913.

Duty-free imports comprised 71.6 per cent of the total imports for September, 1915, and 61 per cent of those of September, 1914. Their increased percentage this year reflects the marked growth in imports of factory materials, mostly on the free list.

Gold imports during September totaled \$42,042,648, exceeding by \$40,008,658 the month's exports of gold, which were \$2,033,990. In the nine months ending with September gold imports aggregated \$265,871,213 and gold exports \$12,936,680, making the net inward gold movement \$252,934,533, compared with a net outward movement of \$117,714,832 in a like period of 1914 and a net outward gold movement of \$27,879,671 in a like period of 1913.

COTTON CROP IN CHOSEN.

[Consul General Ransford S. Miller, Seoul, Sept. 9.]

The Seoul Press states that the present estimate of the cotton crop in South Zenra Province for this year shows an increase over the crop of last year of some 2½ per cent, making the total crop in that Province according to the present estimate 28,375,248 pounds. This crop shows an average production per 0.2451 acre of 463.1 pounds. A much better crop was hoped for by the authorities in this Province, which is the leading cotton district in Chosen, but the severe rains and the unseasonable weather during August hindered somewhat the growth of the plants.

RESULTS OF MAGNETIC SURVEY OF UNITED STATES.

Observations have been made at more than 1,000 new stations and 200 repeat stations since the publication in 1910 by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey of a report containing its isogonic chart, based upon the magnetic survey of the United States which was begun in 1899. The results are given in Special Publication No. 33, Serial No. 18, of the Survey, on: "Terrestrial magnetism—Distribution of the magnetic declination in the United States for January 1, 1915, with isogonic chart and secular change tables."

The plan for this work contemplated, first, a general magnetic survey of the country, with stations 30 or 40 miles apart, and, second, the addition of more stations in magnetically disturbed areas. It also provided for observations at a sufficient number of "repeat" stations to determine the change in the magnetic elements from year to year. The work has now advanced to the point where observations have been made at a great majority of the county seats, and the examination of areas of marked local disturbance is in progress.

The isogonic chart is a map on which lines are drawn through places at which the values of the magnetic declination are the same. The present chart is based on about 6,000 values of declination, including about 800 in Canada and 300 in Mexico and the West Indies.

This chart is also published separately, on heavier paper, for the use of those who do not need Special Publication No. 33 or desire an unfolded map for mounting purposes. The publication or the separate isogonic chart may be obtained by application to the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.

RICE CROP OF CHOSEN.

[Consul General Ransford S. Miller, Seoul, Sept. 9.]

Official estimates now published show an apparent diminution of this year's Chosen rice crop from last year's of only 6.9 per cent. This gives an indicated crop of 57,946,332 bushels, an actual decrease from the 1914 crop of 4,308,603 bushels. The following table shows the rice crops in Chosen for the past six years:

Year.	Bushels.	Year.	Bushels.
1909	38, 184, 530	1912	45, 982, 30
1910	40, 538, 220	1913	51, 664, 102
1911	51, 060, 332	1914	62, 254, 835

NEW PARCEL-POST ARRANGEMENTS IN SPAIN.

In continuation of information sent by him and published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 29, 1915, Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, of Seville, reports that the Government has signed an imperial order extending the parcel-post service to the Spanish post-offices in North Africa.

PROGRESSIVE PEKING.

[Extract from Peking Daily News of Aug. 26, forwarded by Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, Peking.]

In spite of old-fashioned notions and old-fashioned ways Peking, it must be conceded, is showing progress in a western sense, though not perhaps at a western rate of acceleration. The most noticeable improvements being carried out at present concern public health, pure food, markets, sanitation, care of roads, traveling facilities, etc. We have seen in the Hatamen, Morrison Street, and other main thoroughfares the introduction of up-to-date road-making methods, and now we are pleased to note that the Chien Men Ta Chai is being similarly modernized. The large stones which formed the bed of the road and which rendered traveling uncomfortable have been removed and a macadamized road constructed, thus giving a proper approach to the Temple of Heaven.

Last week we outlined the ambitious scheme of the Ministry of the Interior for securing a better irrigation system for Peking. Attention is to be paid to the dredging of the canals which by neglect have become filled with mud and dirt. The elaborate scheme submitted by the engineers for improving the waterways could not be undertaken for lack of funds, but it has been decided to proceed with the more important part of the work. The Ministry proposes to dredge the canals which follow the city wall and flow past the three city gates at the south of the metropolis, these canals to have an average width of 6 chang and a depth of 6 feet. They will then be rendered waterways in the strict sense of the word, as they will then carry off more effectively the sewage of the city, for not only are the century-old drains being repaired but new ones are being constructed, with the result that a distinct advance in sanitation will soon be recorded in Peking.

In the matter of public health a beginning is being made in the education of the people in hygiene, care of children, food precautions, etc., and private effort in these directions is being supplemented by organized municipal supervision. Of course "Rome was not built in a day," and neither will Peking be made a model city in a month or a year. Principles of municipal activity having been recognized, they will be developed as public funds permit, and in due course as public opinion demands and money is forthcoming Peking will be the model city which the administration hopes to make it and the model prefecture it is designed to be, thus setting an example which can be of practical value to the cities throughout the 18 Provinces, and indeed to every patriotic Chinese.

PROTECTION OF TRADE-MARKS IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Sept. 7, 1915.]

In view of the frequency with which foreign trade-marks are registered in Paraguay by third parties in order to force the real owners to buy the right to their use, the American consul at Asuncion has suggested that he be notified when American firms arrange for the registration of their marks in that country. He will then be in a better position to determine whether the marks are being registered in the name of the owners or not, and may be able to save manufacturers and exporters considerable annoyance and expense at a later date.

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR CHINA.

[Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, Peking, Aug. 18.]

The commercial attaché has received from time to time suggestions from American hospitals and medical schools in China urging the establishment in Shanghai of an American firm carrying a full stock of hospital and medical school supplies.

It would seem that the hospitals and medical schools in China experience much difficulty in securing supplies of gauze, cotton of different fibers (sterilizing done in China), suture material, drugs and chemicals in bulk, and surgical instruments. It is recommended that an establishment be opened in Shanghai capable of combining the carrying of stocks of drugs and chemicals with surgical instruments and appliances. There will be a growing demand for these materials in China, especially since the inauguration of the work of the Rockefeller Foundation Commission toward encouraging medical education in this country. The work of this commission will result in securing for certain medical schools and hospitals already in the field a better and more complete equipment and facilities for more extensive work, all of which will involve the creation of a greater market for American drugs, chemicals, surgical instruments and appliances.

It is also desirable that the suggested establishment make provision for repairing and nickel-plating surgical instruments, as there is a large and increasing demand for this line of work.

The China market is already well supplied with tabloids, as the firms of Parke, Davis & Co. and Burrows, Wellcome & Co. have their representatives in China supplying the demand for these materials. There is now wanted a general supply house for all of China for the other materials already mentioned, and this office is of the opinion that this opportunity is one worthy of the consideration of American firms interested in these lines. It may be possible that one firm could advantageously represent a number of American manufacturers of the different varieties of goods above enumerated. The needs of this market may be found to be somewhat different from those obtaining in the United States and for this reason it would be well for the manufacturers interested to send their representatives or a representative to study the situation, with the object in view of noting the peculiar demands which conditions in this country create.

This office is informed that there are 500 medical missionaries in China, and probably more than one-half of these are American.

The work of the Rockefeller Foundation Commission will result in giving an impetus to medical education in this country, so that the demand for surgical appliances and hospital materials will increase from year to year, making it imperative that a general supply house be established in some center, such as Shanghai, and the opportunity now presents itself for American manufacturers to see that this general supply house is American.

[The commercial attaché sends the name of a new Chinese-American publishing company which is about to open offices in Shanghai for the representation of certain American publishers of text books and dealers in scientific instruments. He suggests that American manufacturers of surgical instruments and laboratory apparatus and of medical school and hospital supplies may be able to ar-

range with this concern to handle their products. The address of the new company may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 753.]

As of interest in connection with the plans of the Rockefeller Foundation, the following from the Peking Gazette of August 24 will be of interest:

A Great Medical Mission.

The Japan Advertiser reports the arrival in Yokohama on August 23 of the Rockefeller Institute party, which is coming to China on a great medical mission. The party consists of Dr. William H. Welch, president of the board of directors of the Rockefeller Institute and one of the leading pathologists in America; Dr. Wallace Butterick, executive secretary of the General Education Board of the same institution; and Dr. Simon Flexner, one of the directors of the Rockefeller Institute. They will be in China about three months.

FOR MODERN MEDICAL EDUCATION.

"The object of our trip to China," said Dr. Butterick, "is to start to plan modern medical education there. The Rockefeller Institute plans to do this under its subsidiary branches, chief among these the China Medical Board. Our plans deal entirely with medical education and have nothing to do with medical research."

Among the things that the mission aims to make possible, Dr. Butterick mentioned the following: More medical schools organized on modern lines and financed by the Rockefeller Institute, nurses' training schools for Chinese girls, more hospitals with modern equipment, better chances for Chinese medical school graduates, hospital staffs, and missionaries to study medicine and do research work. One of the proposals is to establish a system of pensions that will allow missionaries on furlough to study medicine in American universities.

Dr. Butterick, as the spokesman of the party, last night outlined the plans for their work in China.

A CONFERENCE AT PEKING.

"We have purchased the Union Medical College at Peking, and the primary purpose of this trip is to go there and confer with the faculty of the college, which has been established for 25 years, on the subject of reorganizing and developing the institution along modern medical lines.

"Following the completion of our work at Peking we shall go to Shanghai for a conference with representatives of three other of the foremost medical schools in China—St. John's, Harvard, and the Union Medical College, the latter being at Nanking.

"The Union Medical College at Nanking has invited us to talk over the matter of uniting with it in establishing a second strong school there equal to the first at Peking.

"We shall then go up the Yangtse River to Chang Sha, where is located the Hunan Yale Medical School, supported largely by Chinese Yale alumni. The General Education Board is already supporting six medical professors in this school, and we are going there to confer with them particularly concerning the installation of better and more modern physical equipment.

A TRIP TO CANTON.

"Returning to Shanghai, we will then journey to Canton to take up with the authorities of Canton Christian College the matter of improved medical education.

"We are also authorized by the Rockefeller Foundation to aid a number of missionary hospitals and to build several more in addition to those already in that part of the country.

ARRANGE FOR INTERNES.

"One of the most important features of our work in China is to effect more friendly relations between the medical schools and hospitals in China, so that the hospital staffs may for three months in each year attend the colleges for

special courses and in turn to allow the graduates of the medical schools every opportunity to enter the hospitals as internes.

"Another thing that should not be overlooked is our intention to arrange for the establishment of one or more nurses' training schools for Chinese girls, so that native Chinese young women nurses may be obtained for the hospitals.

"There will be six more fellowships established for Chinese students desiring to take up medicine as a profession. We already have six. The additional ones, as at present, will be awarded on the basis of competitive examinations for Chinese graduates in medicine.

"We will also establish five nurses' fellowships, by which stipends will be paid to missionaries returning to the United States on furlough, to allow them to study at medical schools in the States."

While Dr. Buttrick did not make any estimate as to the sum which will be expended in this great work for the advancement of Chinese medical science, the expenditure will be many millions.

A NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL BANK FOR CHINA.

[Extract from Peking Daily News of Aug. 31, by Commercial Attaché Julian H. Arnold, Peking.]

The Chinese Ministry of Finance is making active preparations for the early establishment of the Min-Kuo Industrial Bank, the organization regulations of which have recently been sanctioned by the President. The preparations are so advanced that even the necessary clerks and accountants for the bank are being secured. The Bank of China will soon hold an examination for the purpose of selecting competent accountants, most of whom are believed to be intended for the service of the new bank. Needless to say the necessary capital for starting the business of this bank has also been secured. This new financial institution will in a short time prove to be one of the most important business houses of the country.

The Min-Kuo Industrial Bank has an authorized capital of \$20,000,000 (about \$10,000,000 United States currency). One-half of this amount will be provided by the Government and the other half will be secured by issuing shares. Besides financing the various industrial enterprises according to the approved modern system, this new bank will also undertake transportation and insurance business.

The head office of the Min-Kuo Industrial Bank will be in Peking and branch offices will be established in the more important trading centers of this country, such as Shanghai, Tientsin, Hankow, Canton, etc. According to the regulations this bank will do business for a period of 60 years, at the end of which the bank authorities may apply to the Minister of Finance for an extension of the period. The \$20,000,000 capital of the bank will be divided into 200,000 shares of \$100 each.

CORRECTION.

In COMMERCE REPORTS for October 18, 1915, the table of August export trade on page 253 was made up from unrevised figures. August, 1915, exports of paints and varnishes should have read \$739,000 and eight months' exports, \$5,870,000. Agricultural implements for August, 1914, totaled \$674,000 and in August, 1915, \$1,455,000; while for the eight months ending with August, 1914, the exports of that group aggregated \$19,946,000, compared with \$9,279,000 in a like period this year.

REVIVAL OF COPPER MINING IN SWEDEN.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sept. 24.]

It is reported that a number of new copper-ore deposits have been found in the neighborhood of Bjornange, in the County of Are, Province of Jamtland. Ten applications have been made to the Government authorities in order to investigate and possibly mine these deposits, in case they are found to be of sufficient importance. It is claimed that an analysis of these deposits shows anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent of copper.

Copper ore (chalcopyrite) is at present mined extensively in only one district, the Falun, Province of Dalecarlia. This is the largest copper-ore deposit in Sweden and supposed to be one of the largest deposits of chalcopyrite in the world. This mine has been worked for nearly 700 years. Other copper deposits are found at Garpenberg in southern Dalarna, at Tunaberg in Sodermanland, Bersbo in Ostergotland, and Areskutan in Jamtland. The last-named mine is commonly known as an American mine from the fact that some American capital is invested in it and also because it is partly fitted up with American machinery.

Decline in Production—Could Supply Own Needs.

Sweden's copper production has declined from 44,274 tons in 1875 to 5,458 tons in 1913. During the past year, however, there has been a revival of this industry. Lack of transportation facilities and high freight rates hampered Swedish manufacturers in securing their customary supplies from the United States, and this spurred many to see if it were not possible to mine a sufficient quantity of copper in Sweden to cover the domestic needs. Considerable difficulty was encountered in installing the proper machinery and in getting the right sort of labor, so that whatever increase there may be in the amount of copper mined in the Kingdom will be but temporary, and as soon as the war is over American copper will promptly take its old place in the importations of Sweden. [Official American statistics show that in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, the United States shipped to Sweden 34,545,504 pounds of copper pigs, ingots, and bars, valued at \$4,815,949, against 16,005,094 pounds (value, \$2,362,204) in 1914, and 9,080,914 pounds (value, \$1,471,885) in 1913; 519,980 pounds of copper rods and wire, valued at \$69,041, against 3,608 pounds (value, \$827) in 1914 and none in 1913; and \$244,181 worth of other copper manufactures, against \$51,403 worth and \$10,196 worth in the two preceding years, respectively.]

In 1865 Sweden imported only 196 tons of copper; in 1913 the amount imported was 9,560 tons. In 1865 the amount of copper exported from Sweden amounted to 1,487 tons; in 1913 the amount exported was 1,401 tons. These figures indicate that in a crisis like the present Sweden could mine sufficient copper for its own needs. As showing the importance of the copper mine at Falun in the past, it may be stated that during the history of the mine no less than 40,000,000 tons of ore have been mined, from which 500,000 tons of copper have been extracted. The copper produced in Sweden to-day is extracted from burnt pyrites obtained in the manufacture of sulphuric acid.

RENTS FOR DWELLINGS FIXED BY LAW.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Australia, Sept. 4.]

An interesting example of the paternal care exercised by the governments of the Australian States over the welfare of the small wage earner or proprietor is furnished by a bill introduced into the Parliament of New South Wales on August 19 "for the determination of fair rents for certain dwelling houses." The act applies to any dwelling subject to a lease made before or after the commencement of the act, for any term not exceeding three years, at a rent not exceeding \$500 a year, and within localities appointed by the governor.

It provides for the appointment by the governor of fair-rents courts, to which any lessor or any lessee who has paid or tendered all rent due under his lease may apply to have the fair rent of the dwelling house leased by or to him determined. In all cases the rent determined by the courts shall be the rent of the dwelling as from the date of the application. Neither barristers nor solicitors are allowed to appear for any party or upon any application in the courts.

Powers of the Court.

The following are the rules laid down to govern the court in fixing the rent:

In determining the fair rent the court shall first ascertain the capital value of the dwelling house. Such capital value shall be the unimproved value of the land, plus the estimated cost of erecting a similar dwelling thereon at the time of the receipt of such application, less such fair and reasonable sum as may be estimated for any depreciation which diminishes the letting value of the house.

Where it is proved that the dwelling house, upon purchase within three years before the application, with any additions subsequently made, cost more than the sum representing the capital value under the next preceding paragraph, the court may, if satisfied as to the bona fides of such purchase, add to such capital value the whole or any part of such greater cost.

The current rate books of the municipality or shire in which the dwelling is situate shall, as soon as they are available, in the year 1915 and in every year thereafter, be conclusive evidence of the unimproved capital value of the land.

The court shall determine the fair rent at a rate of not less than 5 nor more than 7½ per cent of the capital value of the dwelling house determined as aforesaid, plus the annual rates and taxes on the same, plus the amount estimated to be required annually for repairs (including painting), and plus insurance of any buildings, and plus an amount estimated to be the annual depreciation in value of the buildings, if such depreciation diminishes their letting value, and plus such amount, if any, as the court may deem proper to be allowed for the estimated time per year when the house may be untenanted, but the fair rent shall not in any case exceed 10 per cent of the capital value as ascertained under this section.

Where a building is occupied by two or more separate lessees, the court shall determine the fair rent of the building, and then determine the proportion of such fair rent as it shall deem to be the fair rent of the dwelling of the lessee making the application.

If any applicant being a lessee duly pays the rent of the dwelling leased by him, and otherwise performs the conditions of his lease, the lessor shall not demand any increased rent or give any notice or take any proceedings to terminate the tenancy during the pendency of the application.

In any case where the applicant is the lessee of a dwelling house and furniture, the court shall determine the fair rent of the dwelling house irrespective of the furniture, and shall also determine, in its discretion, the amount of rent to be paid for the furniture.

Findings Remain in Force for Three Years.

Unless otherwise provided the determination of the court remains in force for three years, and during that period no application can be made to vary it, unless where the applicant is the lessor and satisfies the registrar of the court that substantial alterations or additions have been made to the house.

Any covenants to pay rent in excess of that determined are void, and fines are imposed on the lessor who receives any sum in excess of the amount fixed. Penalties are also prescribed for any person who, by threat, endeavors to prevent or dissuade a lessee from making or prosecuting any application under the act, or who wilfully endeavors to impose any detriment or disadvantage upon a lessee by reason of his having made an application.

No costs are allowed in any proceeding under the act.

OPENING THE YANGTZE GORGES.

[Extract from Peking Gazette of Aug. 6, by Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, Peking.]

The directors of a steamship company have petitioned the Chinese Government for a grant from the Szechwan provincial government to open certain gorges in the upper courses of the Yangtze River. The petitioners inform the Government that through their efforts some narrow and dangerous gorges in the upper Yangtze have been opened, proving a boon to navigation in that part of the river, but at present there still remain four gorges to be opened. The estimated expense will be \$200,000, of which the governor of Szechwan has consented to raise \$60,000 for the work. The petitioners request that the other \$140,000 be temporarily appropriated from the public funds of the Szechwan provincial government, to be refunded by the proceeds from a toll to be levied upon ships passing that part of the river after the gorges are opened. The Ministry of Interior has approved the plan of the petitioners' enterprise, but adds that the question relating to the appropriation of funds for this work should be decided after the ministry has obtained the views of the Szechwan governor.

THE HORSE-BEAN CROP OF SPAIN.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 6.]

One of the crops that is largely raised in Andalusia and is appearing more frequently among the exports is the horse bean, or "haba" (*Faba vulgaris*). Recent statistics given out by the Director General of Agriculture show that the production of "habas" in Spain amounts to 146,975 metric tons (Metric ton=2,204.6 pounds). The area devoted to the cultivation of this legume is 206,910 acres—87,586 acres in irrigated districts, producing 50,190 metric tons, and 119,324 acres cultivated by dry-farming methods, producing 96,785 metric tons.

The sections of Spain in which the crops are the largest are eastern Andalusia (32,020 tons), western Andalusia (27,830 tons), and Navarra and the Basque Provinces (12,860 tons).

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Refrigerating machinery, No. 18860.—A commission agent in Spain has informed an American consular officer that he desires to represent American manufacturers of ice-making and refrigerating machinery. Catalogues and communications must be in Spanish.

Iron and steel, wool, cotton, etc., No. 18861.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that a firm desires to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers or exporters of iron in bars and steel, tin and tin plates, wool and cotton for the textile industry, soaps and perfumery, stationery, knitted goods, chemical and pharmaceutical products, rice, preserved meats, and lubricating oils. The firm also desires to secure the agency for some transport company or steamship line. Correspondence should be in Portuguese or French.

Trunk handles, etc., No. 18862.—A business man in Canada informs an American consular officer that he desires to purchase trunk handles, casters, and hinges.

Flour, No. 18863.—An American consular officer in Africa reports that a firm desires to establish connections with an American manufacturer of flour. The firm is in a position to handle about 4 tons of the commodity a month. Correspondence should be in French or Portuguese, and quotations made c. i. f. destination.

Machinery, No. 18864.—A firm in the Kongo has informed an American consular officer that it desires to purchase at once a machine with a capacity of about 4 tons a day for hulling, cleaning, and polishing rice, together with a 5 or 6 horsepower steam engine suitable for wood fuel. The firm desires to purchase machine and engine from the same manufacturer, if possible. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination, or Lisbon, Portugal. It is essential that all information possible should be contained in the first letter. Correspondence should be in Portuguese or French.

Gums, No. 18865.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American importers of gums.

Gilt sulphur of antimony, pigments, etc., No. 18866.—A firm in Portugal has informed an American consular officer that it desires to purchase gilt sulphur of antimony, pigments, white zinc oxide, and aluminum tubes. Samples and price lists are desired. Terms: Cash against document. Correspondence should be in French or Portuguese.

Window glass, metals, etc., No. 18867.—An American consular officer in China reports that a firm of importers in his district desires to establish connections with an American manufacturer of window glass, tin plates, metals, cotton and woolen piece goods, sundries, such as shoe accessories, playing cards, leather, needles, sulphurous acid, and aniline dyes, cotton yarns, etc.

Trouser buttons, No. 18868.—An importing tailor in Chile has informed an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of trouser buttons similar to the samples which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 67136.) The buttons should bear the words "Sastreria Inglesa Antofagasta."

Fancy cotton and silk piece goods, No. 18869.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of fancy cotton and silk damaged cut piece goods, ranging from one-half to 2 yards per pound; also fancy cotton piece goods.

Electrical machinery and appliances, No. 18870.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Paraguay that a firm desires to receive prices on machinery and appliances desired for the installation of an electric lighting plant. A list of the articles desired, together with additional information, may be obtained upon application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

- Metals, fuel, machinery, etc., No. 18871.**—An American consular officer in Uruguay has informed the Bureau that a firm desires to represent American manufacturers of pig iron, coal and coke, wire, wire rope, wire nails, wire fencing, agricultural machinery and implements, paints and varnishes, soap, brandy, and wines. Correspondence may be in English.
- Paper bags, No. 18872.**—An American consular officer in Honduras reports that an importer desires to secure bids on 500,000 Manila paper bags of the common square-bottom type. The sizes required range from one-fourth pound to 12 pounds. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or New Orleans. Correspondence may be in English.
- Perfumery bottles, No. 18873.**—A business man in Uruguay has informed an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers of fine quality glass perfumery bottles. Correspondence is preferred in Spanish.
- Machinery, No. 18874.**—The Bureau has received a report from an American consular officer in India to the effect that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of machinery and appliances for making pills, tablets, and powders.
- Canned tomatoes, No. 18875.**—A business man in the United States has informed the Bureau that his representative in Cuba desires to represent American exporters of canned tomatoes.
- Kerosene burners, No. 18876.**—The Bureau has received a letter from a firm in England expressing its desire to communicate with American manufacturers of kerosene burners with circular wicks 1 inch to 1½ inches in diameter, for use with an incandescent mantle. The burner must be of the nonpressure type with the mantle above, and preference is given to a burner which draws the air through the side of the wick and not through a tube from the bottom of the fount.
- Trouser buttons, No. 18877.**—An American consular officer in Honduras reports that a merchant in his district desires to receive samples and prices of bone trouser buttons, composition buttons for men's suits, and pearl buttons. Prices should be made for immediate delivery.
- General agency, No. 18878.**—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Uruguay that a commission house in that country intends to handle American goods and desires to receive manufacturers' catalogues, samples, prices, and usual terms. No particular line is specified. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.
- Piano parts, No. 18879.**—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm in Brazil desires to communicate with American manufacturers of piano felt, keys, strings, and other parts used in the repair of pianos; gut and wire strings (also silk coated) for other musical instruments. References are given.
- Machinery, No. 18880.**—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a manufacturer of brushes in that country desires to communicate with American manufacturers of brush-making machinery in general and especially "mixing machines for fiber and bass."
- Paper, iron, and steel machinery, etc., No. 18881.**—A commission house in Uruguay has informed an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers of printing, writing, and binding paper; cardboard boxes; iron in general; steel in bars and sheets; galvanized plate; artisans' tools; electric cables and wires, lamps, meters, and transformers; machines and stationary and semistationary boilers of from 50 to 500 horsepower for electric plants; and internal combustion petroleum motors. Correspondence may be in English, but Spanish is preferred.

"Opportunities for Foreign Students at the Colleges and Universities in the States" is the title of Bulletin 27 of the United States Bureau of Education, which is being sold at the nominal price of 30 cents by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Timber, undergrowth, and brush, etc., No. 2740.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Meadow Creek, Wash., until December 1, 1915, for clearing the reservoir site at Lake Keechelus, Wash., of all timber, undergrowth, and brush and for the purchase of sawmill machinery at the site. Bids are also invited on about 160,000 feet b. m. of lumber and 200,000 feet b. m. of logs. Further information may be had on application to the United States Reclamation Service, Meadow Creek, Wash.; Denver, Colo.; or Washington, D. C.

Surgical instruments, No. 2741.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the medical supply depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 29, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at warehouse D, foot of Laguna Street, Fort Mason, scissors, forceps, infusion apparatus, surgical needles, etc.

Tractors, No. 2742.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until November 1, 1915, for furnishing and delivering, f. o. b. Honolulu, Oahu, three gasoline tractors of the track-laying type. Specifications and further information may be had on application to the Washington office.

Excavation work, No. 2743.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Mills Building, El Paso, Tex., until November 17, 1915, for the excavation of the Leasburg Canal from Station 310 to Station 570, and the Picacho Branch Canal, involving about 162,000 cubic yards; and the San Elizario Feed Canal, involving the excavation of about 54,000 cubic yards. For further information address the United States Reclamation Service, El Paso, Tex.; Las Cruces, N. Mex.; Denver, Colo.; or Washington, D. C.

Subsistence stores, No. 2744.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the quartermaster, U. S. Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until October 26, 1915, for furnishing and delivering jam, sugar, cloves, oleomargarine, lemon flavoring extract, bacon, sliced beef, cream cheese, lard, and preserves.

Extension and remodeling building, No. 2745.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 29, 1915, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the United States post office and customhouse at Muskegon, Mich. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at Muskegon, Mich., or at the Washington office.

Medical supplies, No. 2746.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until October 26, 1915, for furnishing and delivering absorbent cotton, camphora pulvis, and collodium.

Potatoes, onions, butter, bacon, etc., No. 2747.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, United States Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until October 26, 1915, for furnishing and delivering potatoes, onions, butter, bacon, cheese, ham, and yeast.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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EXAMINATIONS FOR LIFEBOAT MEN.

The Secretary of Commerce on October 22 approved Department Circular No. 267, designating the officers to conduct the examination of applicants for certificates as lifeboat men, as follows:

United States supervising and local inspectors, Steamboat-Inspection Service, and others concerned:

In accordance with the provisions of the seamen's act, I hereby designate the following officers to examine applicants for certificates as lifeboat men:

Any commissioned or warrant officer of the United States Navy who may be detailed for such duty by the commandant of any navy yard or the commanding officer of any vessel of the United States Navy.

Commissioned officers of the line and warrant officers of the rank of boatswain or keeper in the United States Coast Guard.

Deck officers of the vessels of the Lighthouse Service, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Fisheries Service.

Local and assistant inspectors of hulls in the Steamboat-Inspection Service.

Applications to any of the above officers for examination for certificate as lifeboat man will receive prompt attention, and the applicant will be examined within the most reasonable time, and certificates will be issued by the examining officers if the applicant is found qualified.

Supplies of certificates and other forms required will be furnished the various officers.

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,
Secretary.

RESTORATION OF FRENCH DUTIES ON FLOUR AND WHEAT.

[Telegram from American Consul General, Paris, Oct. 18, 1915.]

A decree of October 16, 1915, restores the import duties on wheat, spelt, and maslin, flour of wheat, spelt, and maslin, and bread, which were suspended by the decree of July 31, 1914 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 14, p. 10). Shipments exported direct to France before October 17 are to be entitled to free admission.

The United States Bureau of Standards recently inspected and tested 700 automatic parcel-post scales for the Post Office Department at the factory of the manufacturer in Chicago.

CHANGES IN BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Telegram from American Consul General, London, Oct. 14, 1915.]

A small number of changes in the British embargo list, principally in the nature of more complete specification of articles or of transference from absolute to qualified embargo, have recently been published. Certain new articles are placed under partial embargo.

Harness and saddlery of all kinds, including metal fittings, are now under complete embargo.

Leather, undressed or dressed, suitable for military clothing, is transferred from the absolute to the qualified embargo list. Sheepskins woolled and skins of sheep and goats, undressed or dressed, with certain restrictions, may be exported to British possessions and protectorates. The following items, not heretofore under embargo, may be exported only to British territories: Leather belting, hydraulic leather, pump leather and picking bands, stearine pitch, and other pitches derived from fatty oils and acids.

Blankets of all kinds and cotton fabric suitable for air craft are now under prohibition of export except to certain European countries. Deerskins and pigskins, undressed or dressed, are subject to a more liberal régime than formerly, as are also certain salts of aluminium. The exportation of the following articles not previously subject to embargo is now prohibited to certain European countries: Desiccated coconut, borax, boric acid and other boron compounds, bookbinding leather, chamois, glacé kid, morocco, persian, roan, and seal leather, and leather suitable for textile machinery except picking bands.

[Detailed information on the subject of British embargo provisions is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and inquiries in regard to specific articles will be answered by the Bureau.]

GRAIN-CROP ESTIMATES FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Sept. 24.]

According to a statement issued by the Government Statist for South Australia, giving estimates of the grain crop of that State for the season 1915-16, the total acreage under crop with wheat, barley, and oats is 3,594,057 acres, an increase of 411,168 acres as compared with the previous season. The acreage of wheat is 3,192,381, of barley 87,686, and of oats 313,990.

In regard to the present outlook of wheat acreage under crop, 621,515 acres are classed as below the average; 1,486,421 as equal to the average of good seasons; and 1,084,445 as above the average. For the decennial period 1903-4 to 1912-13 the mean annual average yield was 10.28 bushels of wheat and 1.25 tons of hay per acre, and these are accepted as the pre-ent averages of good seasons for the whole State. The present prospects are stated to be better than the average.

American motor trucks are now being handled by a Barcelona firm in place of a Continental truck the supply of which was cut off by the war. The American consulate general in that city was instrumental in bringing about this new trade connection, through assistance rendered the motor company's representatives, who spoke no Spanish.

FISH LANDED AT NEW ENGLAND PORTS.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries announces that fishing fleets landing fish at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., during September, 1915, included 296 steam and sail vessels. At Boston 388 trips were landed, aggregating 10,228,293 pounds of fish, valued at \$291,225; at Gloucester 181 trips were landed, aggregating 8,542,380 pounds, valued at \$199,502; and at Portland 91 trips were landed, amounting to 683,668 pounds, valued at \$26,095; a total for the three ports of 660 trips and 19,454,341 pounds of fresh and salted fish, for which the fishermen received \$516,822.

On September 1 large quantities of small mackerel were landed at Boston, and on September 8 the schooner *Tattler* arrived at Gloucester with 475,000 pounds of salted cod. This is the largest hand-line fare landed at this port since 1909, when the same craft weighed off 479,433 pounds of cod. Swordfish have been quite plentiful. The catch of mackerel this year to September 20 amounts to 58,161 barrels of fresh and 8,240 barrels of salted, as compared with 65,900 barrels of fresh and 13,015 barrels of salted for the same period in 1914.

Fish landed at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., by American fishing vessels in September, 1915.

	Pounds.	Value.		Pounds.	Value.
Boston:			Gloucester—Continued.		
Cod	1,807,325	\$62,721	Mackerel	1,026,065	\$53,315
Haddock	4,980,569	88,492	Miscellaneous	10,638	117
Hake	843,374	20,279	Total	8,542,380	199,502
Pollock	553,840	18,468			
Cusk	251,139	3,841	Portland:		
Halibut	61,432	4,795	Cod	42,073	1,174
Mackerel	829,590	37,926	Haddock	6,930	222
Miscellaneous	901,024	54,703	Hake	132,681	2,362
Total	10,228,293	291,225	Pollock	7,707	159
			Cusk	38,698	587
Gloucester:			Halibut	192,391	16,119
Cod	3,128,114	79,260	Mackerel	87,964	2,001
Haddock	2,090,630	20,948	Miscellaneous	175,224	3,471
Hake	1,206,383	15,354	Total	683,668	26,095
Pollock	89,371	1,022			
Cusk	703,332	10,009	Grand total	19,454,341	516,822
Halibut	278,857	19,447			

FRENCH REQUISITIONS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR.

[Cablegram from Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, Oct. 18.]

The law of October 16 provides that the Government, through the Minister of Commerce, may requisition foreign or native wheat and flour for the civil population, at prices not exceeding 30 francs per 100 kilos (\$2.63 per 100 pounds) for wheat containing not more than 2 per cent of impurities, weighing 77 kilos per hectoliter (59.8 pounds per bushel). The prices are subject to an increase or a decrease of 1 per cent per kilo over or under 77 and a reduction of 1 per cent for each extra 1 per cent of impurities. The law also provides that flour prices shall be fixable by decree.

According to the administrative circular of October 16, although the right of requisition is general, it is preferable that requisition should be of stock from warehouses, and although previous contracts do not safeguard against requisition, such merchandise should be taken only in cases of extreme necessity, the fulfillment of contracts to be subject to the decision of the courts. Hard wheats can not be requisitioned for alimentary pastes.

THE INTERNATIONAL HOP TRADE.

In commenting on the hop situation the latter part of September a Sydney (Australia) daily said:

Recent advices from Hobart indicate that the market for Tasmanian hops in that center is very firm. That has no doubt been brought about by the high rates demanded in England for Kent hops, the crop of which this season will probably be the smallest harvested during the past 30 years. Already shipments of 1915 Tasmanian hops have been made to London, and further inquiries are being made for both the 1915 and 1916 crops. In Sydney 1915 Tasmanian hops are offered at $1/6$ [37 cents] per pound, delivered usual terms. The latest cablegrams from America report an advance of 2 cents in the price of the 1914 crop. American hops are available on spot at $1/5$ [35 cents] per pound, duty paid and delivered. So far no quotations for the 1915 crop of American hops have been received. New Zealand hops, for prompt delivery, are worth $1/6$ per pound, duty paid and delivered. The bulk of the stocks which were held in Nelson (New Zealand) have been shipped to London at full rates, and there is now a good demand for the 1916 crop.

Mention has already been made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** of the short hop crop in England, Germany, and Austria-Hungary (see the issues for Oct. 6 and 20, 1915), that for England and Austria-Hungary being estimated at half of last season's harvest and Germany's at two-thirds.

American Crop—Imports and Exports.

Figures of the American yield are compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture only as to average quantity per acre and quality. For the current crop the average per acre is placed at 1,042 pounds, against 985 pounds last season. As the acreage does not vary much from year to year, this would seem to indicate a larger total for 1915. The quality, however, is not so good as last year, being rated at 88 as compared with 92; and this is reflected in the price, which in August was 15 cents, against a quotation of 20 cents at the corresponding date in 1914.

England is a large purchaser of American hops, taking 88 per cent of the total exports in the fiscal year (ended June 30) 1913, 92 per cent in 1914, and 85 per cent in 1915, or 15,409,093 pounds, 22,219,620 pounds, and 13,823,889 pounds out of total shipments of 17,591,195 pounds, 24,262,896 pounds, and 16,210,443 pounds, respectively. Canada takes over 1,000,000 pounds yearly, and in 1915 613,123 pounds of hops were shipped from the United States to Australia.

While ranking as the world's largest producer of hops—the commercial movement of American hops being unofficially estimated at 57,060,000 pounds for the year ended June 30, 1914—the United States is also a regular, though unsteady, buyer of certain grades of foreign hops. In the fiscal year 1910 such imports totaled 3,200,560 pounds; in 1911, 8,557,331 pounds; in 1912, 2,991,125 pounds; in 1913, 8,494,144 pounds; in 1914, 5,382,025 pounds; and in the 12 months ended June 30 last, 11,651,332 pounds. Germany and Austria-Hungary supply practically all of the hop imports, though England also participates in the trade and Belgian hops figure to a slightly larger extent than the English.

Pretoria is anxious to establish a local diamond-cutting industry, and the municipality is prepared to offer a free site, a water supply, and a subsidy.

BANKING INNOVATION FOR COLLECTING INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Sept. 30.]

An American life insurance company asked a bank in this city to undertake collections of premiums for policies held by Hondurans, and complained of the large number of policies which had lapsed in Honduras since the beginning of the European war. The local bank investigated and found that the general complaint was the increased rate of exchange for gold drafts, which had advanced from 240 per cent to 310 per cent since the beginning of the war (at present the Honduras peso is worth 32 cents in exchange for American drafts). An arrangement was made whereby the bank may accept 8 per cent interest-bearing notes in payment of premiums, which are at once credited on open account to the insurance company, but on which the latter does not draw until 90 days after payment by note. The bank guarantees the notes which it accepts, and in consequence a number of policies have been restored and other policyholders have been persuaded to continue policies which would otherwise have lapsed.

EXEMPTION OF FOODSTUFFS IN MEXICO.

[Consul Wilbert L. Bonney, San Luis Potosi, Oct. 12, 1915.]

A decree promulgated in Vera Cruz September 29, 1915, in addition to prescribing new rates of export duty on ixtle (pita fiber), rubber, and refined quicksilver, exempts from import duty fresh meat, dried fish, preserved foods of animal origin, lard, rice, fruits, vegetables, corn, sugar, olive oil in tins, flour, biscuit, oats, and common soap. [It is presumed that the exemption from import duties is a temporary provision to remain in operation pending the restoration of normal conditions as regards food supplies in Mexico.]

FURTHER EXPORTATION OF WOOL FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

[Telegram from American Consul General, London, Oct. 20, 1915.]

Applications for licenses to export to the United States 10,000 bales of East India wool, to be purchased at forthcoming Liverpool wool sales, will be considered. No licenses will be granted for the exportation of black, gray, and brown wool or of yellow pieces, low and medium grade hard white blanket wool, and combed wool, all of which are required for military purposes. The usual conditions as to guarantee against reexportation to countries hostile to Great Britain are applicable.

INDIANAPOLIS TO HAVE ELECTROLYSIS SURVEY.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for an electrolysis survey in the city of Indianapolis by the United States Bureau of Standards. The bureau found, on receiving the request to undertake this work, that there was considerable need of such a survey, as the electrolysis conditions are unfavorable and the property of utility companies is being affected. A representative of the bureau was sent to Indianapolis to attend to the preliminary work.

FOREIGN TARIFF.**AUSTRALIA.**

[Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, Sept. 9, 1915.]

Prohibition of Sugar.

By a proclamation of September 7, 1915, the importation of sugar into Australia is prohibited, except with the consent of the Minister of Trade and Customs.

NICARAGUA.

[La Gaceta, Aug. 21, 1915.]

Prohibition of Revolvers and Pistols.

The Government of Nicaragua has enacted a decree, dated August 17, 1915, and effective from the date of publication, prohibiting for the period of one year the importation of revolvers and pistols of all kinds, except in cases where application to import had been approved or consular invoices certified prior to the date of publication of the decree.

PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Sept. 7, 1915.]

Protection of Trade-Marks.

In view of the frequency with which foreign trade-marks are registered in Paraguay by third parties in order to force the real owners to buy the right to their use, the American consul at Asuncion has suggested that he be notified when American firms arrange for the registration of their marks in that country. He will then be in a better position to determine whether the marks are being registered in the name of the owners or not, and may be able to save manufacturers and exporters considerable annoyance and expense at a later date.

PERU.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Sept. 1, 1915.]

Proposed Export Duties.

Owing to the decrease in revenues occasioned by the war, the Peruvian Government has under consideration a bill providing for the levying of export duties on mineral products and one for the establishment of similar taxes on other important products of the country.

Mineral products of all kinds, in whatever form exported, are to be subject to a tax of 3 per cent ad valorem, if originating in the territory covered by the Central and Southern Railways of Peru, while the duty on such materials produced elsewhere in the country is to be 2 per cent ad valorem, and an export tax of 2 shillings per ton is to be imposed on petroleum. These imposts, if enacted, are not to go into effect until November 9, 1915, as it was provided by a law of November 8, 1890, that no additional export duties on mining products should be levied for a period of 25 years from that date.

An export duty of 6 pence per 100 pounds, gross weight, is to be levied on sugar of all kinds, when the price (f. o. b. place of embarkation) of granulated sugar polarizing 96° is not less than 11 shillings 6 pence per 100 pounds.

When the price of cotton ("Piura rough") is not less than 7 pence per pound, a duty of 7½ pence per 100 pounds is to be imposed, and

an additional $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence per 100 pounds for each advance in price of $\frac{1}{2}$ penny; on other cotton ("semi-rough and Mitafifi") an export tax of 5 pence per 100 pounds is to be levied, when the price is not less than $6\frac{1}{2}$ pence per pound, with an increase of $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence for each advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ penny in price. "Smooth" cotton is to be dutiable at 6 pence per 100 pounds when the price ranges between $5\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$ pence per pound, at 1 shilling when the price is between $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ pence per pound, and at 2 shillings in case the price should exceed $7\frac{1}{2}$ pence. On washed wool a duty of 2 shillings per 100 pounds is to be collected when the Liverpool quotation is not less than 10 pence per 100 pounds. Rawhides in general and goatskins are to be subject to a duty of $1\frac{1}{4}$ pence and dried hides to a duty of $1\frac{1}{4}$ pence per kilo.

All duties are to be paid by means of 90 days sight drafts on London or New York. [Shilling (12 pence) = \$0.243 (par value).]

[It was expected that there would be considerable opposition to these measures in the Peruvian Congress, but, as announced in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 14, 1915, the bill providing for the export duties on sugar, cotton, wool, and hides was enacted October 6. There are on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a number of reports and press clippings regarding the probable effect of the proposed legislation, which will be loaned upon application.]

PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 17, 1915.]

Duty on Structural Iron.

A new item added to the Portuguese customs tariff by a recent decree makes iron or steel, shaped or grooved, for use in the construction of buildings, plain, painted, or varnished, dutiable at 0.030 milreis per kilo. [Milreis (escudo) \$0.76 (July, 1915); kilo, 2.2046 pounds.]

SALVADOR.

[Diario Oficial, Sept. 16, 1915.]

Supplementary Charges at La Union.

A concession has been granted by the Salvadorian Government for the levying of supplementary charges on goods shipped through the port of La Union. The schedule of fees for loading, unloading, warehouse, etc., as proposed by the concessionary and approved by the Salvadorian authorities, is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and may be consulted by those interested.

TRINIDAD.

[Vice Consul John V. Swearingen, jr., Trinidad, Aug. 21, 1915.]

Standards for Butter.

The health authorities of the Island of Trinidad have recently been enforcing more strictly than before the Food and Drugs Ordinance of 1905, which prescribes standards of purity for butter. According to section 2 of this ordinance, any substance sold as butter must contain not less than 80 per cent of butter fat if sold in tins weighing not over 5 pounds, and at least 72 per cent of butter fat and not over 16 per cent of water, nor over 12 per cent of salt, if sold in larger containers, and must be free from other fats. Substances consisting of butter but sold as "cooking butter," "cooking grease," or under any other name than butter, must contain at least 75 per cent of butter fat.

SPAIN A FERTILE FIELD FOR AMERICAN COMMERCE.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Spain, Sept. 1.]

The success achieved recently by American commercial travelers who have called at the Seville consulate has made it evident that, at present, there is an exceptional opportunity for the sale of various classes of American goods in that district if merchants will go after it in the same way they do in the United States. A traveler in the hardware and machinery line came to Spain, after a tour of several months through Russia, Switzerland, Italy, and France, expecting to pick up a few orders en route from the north to Gibraltar, where he intended to take a steamer to return to the United States. He was astonished to find Spain the most fertile field for orders in Europe. In a hurried trip through the Spanish cities, covering less than three weeks, he had taken over 250 substantial orders, more than he had received in all the other European countries he had visited. The consul gave him local addresses and introductions to firms in Seville, and he left after five days with another large number of orders for direct shipment.

The Seville consulate has received an exceptional number of inquiries for various classes of goods in recent months, all of which have been made the subject of Trade Opportunity notes and published in COMMERCE REPORTS or made the subject of special confidential circulars sent out by the Department of Commerce, but the business was not properly followed up.

Poor Results Disgust Spanish Dealer.

A particular case in point is that connected with inquiries for photographic plates and papers, in which there was, and still is, a shortage. This need was reported by telegram, and afterwards followed up by an elaborate report in which it was particularly stated that the shortage was in plates, paper, and other such supplies and that there was no call for cameras at the present time. The results of these efforts were to receive from America one catalogue of snap-shot cameras and another sheet describing a camera for taking "penny pictures." No particulars of the goods required have been received, and the dealer, the largest in his line in the city, was disgusted with the nonsuccess of his efforts. He is now seeking the goods in other countries.

If this need had been followed up by a commercial traveler, or by full information, prices, etc., being sent to the inquirer, probably substantial orders would have resulted. If commercial travelers will visit Spain in the near future they will find it a particularly favorable time to secure orders and establish a good business on a permanent basis, which can be continued after conditions become normal in Europe. They should plan to enter the country through Gibraltar or Cadiz and leave it via Portugal.

Lists of Dealers Should Be Obtained.

With such an itinerary a total of 58 days or two months would be spent in Spain and Portugal. Actual experience would probably vary the time somewhat, giving a longer or shorter period in different cities according to the commodity that was to be sold, and side trips might be necessary for special lines of goods. The cost of such a trip would be approximately \$620. The commercial traveler would do well to provide himself beforehand with a list of the dealers in his line in

each of the cities he contemplates visiting. Such lists can be secured upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, or its branch offices. The traveler should also provide himself with a supply of circular letters, printed in Spanish, to notify such dealers of his intended visits.

On arrival at the first port in Spain the traveler should notify the consuls or consular agents of the United States of the dates on which he expects to arrive at their respective cities, inclosing lists of those in his line of business whom he intends to visit and requesting the consul to correct or supplement this list. Catalogues in Spanish should also be sent to the local merchants.

Personal Element Enters into Business.

The commercial representative should be authorized to make such terms, etc., as seem advisable, to grant credits where the information received justifies, to appoint agents for a town or district when desired, to arrange for a supply of samples or a stock of the goods, etc. There are several men in Seville who would be very satisfactory agents, but who are not in a position to make outright purchases. A traveling representative could judge these men and probably arrange for shipments to be made to them on time payment or for sale on a commission basis. The personal element enters more largely into business in Spain than almost anywhere else in Europe, and it is this lack of immediate touch that is preventing American merchants from securing a large portion of the present trade of Spain.

The commercial traveler for Spain should, of course, have a knowledge of the Spanish language. Lack of this might be compensated for by engaging a guide, who would cost about \$1 per day and expenses, but getting business through an interpreter is never as successful as by direct methods. Familiarity with Spanish customs, manners, and ideals is valuable. A considerable amount of tact is desirable, with ability to combine sociability and business, taking time for the little courtesies that mean so much to the Spanish business man, who is not used to the quick, abrupt, and, to him, mannerless "hustle" of the average American traveler.

May Get Orders in Many Different Lines.

There are many lines for which a commercial traveler visiting Seville now can secure orders. These include oil presses, electrical machinery and supplies, electrical and gasoline pumps, hardware, paper, iron and steel products, tools, chemicals, flour and other cereals, sausage casings, stationery and office supplies, bromide, refrigerating and ice-making machinery, abattoir equipment, road-making machinery, oil drums, agricultural machinery and implements, drugs, piping, concrete mixers and machinery, photographic supplies, shoes, advertising novelties, codfish, shoe polish, fans, firearms, lubricating oils, paraffin, paints and varnishes, wire fencing, machine tools, leather, automobiles, railway ties, and gas stoves for heating.

The municipal officers have recently authorized the floating of a loan, amounting in United States currency to \$6,984,000, for city improvements, which include the paving of the streets by modern methods, the erection of a first-class hotel, improvement of the sewerage and water systems, building of filter beds, etc., which have been fully covered in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 5, 1915.

DEMORALIZATION IN THE COCONUT-OIL TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 31.]

The trade in coconut oil in Hongkong and Far Eastern ports generally has come to be somewhat demoralized, not only as an indirect result of the war but by reason of changes in industrial processes in Far Eastern factories. Incidental to the situation it appears that an attempt on the part of Japanese interests to dominate the coconut-oil market in Japan, and to some extent in other Eastern markets, by obtaining control of the South Sea Islands, whence German manufacturers obtained a large share of their oil previous to the war, has ended, for the time being at least, in more or less disaster.

The chief sources of copra in this part of the world have been the East Indies, particularly Ceylon, Java, and Singapore, the Philippines and the South Sea Islands, such as the islands in the Marshall group. Before the outbreak of the war in Europe the demand for copra was particularly strong in France and Germany, other nations taking considerable of the product but in lesser volume. Most of the copra from the East Indies and the Philippines went to France, while that in the South Seas went to Germany through the organization of the trade of that part of the world possessed by German interests. Considerable quantities went to the United States and to Japan, though it has been more profitable to ship coconut oil rather than copra to the former country. In Japan the industry of pressing oil from copra imported from various points was inaugurated and assumed considerable proportions. The oil made was usually of comparatively poor grades made from the cheapest grades of copra and was mostly used for soap making.

Qualities of the Oil.

When the South Sea Islands were captured by Japan during the earlier portions of the war their copra was sent to Japan almost exclusively. In the meanwhile the market for oil in Europe was shut off to a considerable extent, and for a time the course of the local copra and oil markets in this part of the world was very uncertain. The high price of good oil at one time led to a number of changes in the trade, and these have become permanent. Oil in the Malay States and the East Indies has been produced at such a rate and by such methods that it can undersell Japanese oil. A low grade "solid oil" imported largely from the Philippines and the East Indies through Hongkong has supplanted the higher grade oil in Japanese, and in Hongkong, Shanghai, and other Far Eastern soap factories.

Singapore and Manila oils are sold, even in Japan, under a special customs arrangement for admitting raw materials under bond, in competition with Japanese-made oil, and naturally control in the Hongkong and other lower Asiatic markets. Clarified and refined fish oil is coming to be used more generally in industrial concerns in the Far East as a substitute for the coconut product. Altogether the coconut oil situation has changed from what it was a year ago. For all that, prices still realized afford ample profit for the modern and properly equipped oil-pressing establishments.

The Hongkong market for coconut oil continues good, though prices have a lower range than anticipated at the beginning of the

year. Exports of copra to both Europe and the United States by way of Hongkong have been far below normal.

Better Product from Philippines Anticipated.

Philippine copra, heretofore of comparatively low grade because of the manner in which cured, is likely soon to be of the highest grade and to produce the best oil. Philippine copra producers have been agitating for modern "copra centrals," for drying coconuts, similar to the large sugar centrals erected by the Government for sugar producers. A Government commission appointed to study processes for drying the nuts is testing various drying machines including machines used by German interests in the South Sea Islands, whence some of the best copra has been received. When a standard dryer has been selected central plants will be established in various parts of the Philippines. It is estimated that by reason of the inferior Philippine product native producers are losing one to two million dollars gold a year. The Philippine Government has been endeavoring for several years to improve methods of curing, but with comparatively little success.

NORTH MANCHURIAN TRADE NOTES.

[Consul Charles K. Moser, Harbin, China, Aug. 3.]

Business Develops Rapidly at Manchuli.

A newspaper published at Station Manchuli reports that the rapid development of business and the increase in exports from that region of North Manchuria, compelled the local banks and the Chamber of Commerce to ask the board of directors of the Russian Transporting, Steamship & Insurance Co., at Petrograd, to open a special forwarding office at Manchuli. The board of directors appointed an agent to investigate the North Manchuria frontier district. He reported surprising possibilities in the fishing industry of the district and in the future of its trade with Mongolia. He investigated the proposed trade routes along the Kurouloun, Onona and Argun Rivers, and as a result of his investigations he advised the opening of these routes and the construction of a railway to the Nershinskisavod and to Urga as soon as peace is declared in Europe.

The Russian company mentioned has already opened an office at Manchuli, which is especially concerned with exports to foreign countries. The transportation of freights between Manchuli, Urga, and Kiakhta is to be accomplished by an automobile service inaugurated by this company.

Trade on Sungari River between Harbin and Amur Falls Off.

Trade on the Sungari River between Harbin and the ports of the Amur district has fallen off this summer, from the amounts recorded in previous seasons. On account of the war, there is little travel and little freight from Harbin. Many of the Amur steamers coming up the river stop at small ports on the Sungari for grain cargoes, and then return to the Amur without touching at Harbin at all. It is said that this is unprecedented.

New Macaroni Factory Being Built.

A Chinese firm at Fuchiatien is constructing a new macaroni factory which, it is claimed, will have an output of 1,800 pounds per day.

FRUIT CRISIS CURTAILS TRADE IN CANARIES.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, Canary Islands, Aug. 31.]

The fruit exportation, which produces approximately 90 per cent of the buying resources of the Canary Islands, is undergoing a season of depression that threatens to have serious consequences, on account of the marked insufficiency of the ocean tonnage now available.

Since July 1 it has been found alarmingly difficult to ship bananas. During July and August bananas by the hundreds of thousands have rotted on the plantations, on barges in the Canary Island harbors awaiting transportation, and on the wharves usually occupied by fruit steamers. This is the result of the lack of bottoms to carry the fruit to England and France, the two principal markets, with British ports absorbing close to 90 per cent of the total output.

In June, 1914, there were 39 steamers carrying fruit cargoes to England alone, while in June of this year there was a reduction of about 33½ per cent in the number of available bottoms, as only 28 steamers secured fruit cargoes here. The reduction in tonnage was even greater than the shortage in the frequency of sailings, and a tremendous increase in freight rates has resulted.

Permanent Injury to Industry Feared.

Conditions among the planters are very bad and threaten to produce permanent injuries to the industry. The Spanish Government has set aside \$193,000 to be employed in hiring vessels, and numerous public meetings have been held, though no definite action has been taken. On the other hand, a new British company has just been organized and has announced the chartering of six small steamers to make a regular schedule. Another company has secured two additional vessels to ply between Liverpool and Canary Island ports.

At this time the banana bunches are selling at \$0.38 each, while the price just before the outbreak of war was \$0.97. Even at this price, less than 60 per cent of the fruit is being sold, and as a result the fruit growers are facing a loss, estimated by the Fruit Growers' Association at approximately \$200,000 per month.

Conditions are reflected by the treasury returns made by the collector of customs for the archipelago, which show for July a 20 per cent and for August a 25 per cent reduction in the assessed valuation of imports, based on the general average of the last five years.

Reduced Purchasing Power of Public.

The real importance of the situation to American business men lies directly in the reduced purchasing power of the general public. This reduction has been strongly shown by the recent arrival of a number of fruit carriers from Liverpool, whose cargoes for the Canary ports have been very small indeed. While American merchandise is undoubtedly making a strong bid for favor and has succeeded in making a noticeable proportionate gain, as compared with the status of other nations in this market, it is doubtful if an actual increase in American importations can be effected under present circumstances.

NEW ZEALAND AS A MEAT-SUPPLYING COUNTRY.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 14.]

The frozen-meat industry of New Zealand is receiving much attention at this time, and much is being done to improve the herds and flocks of this Dominion, as well as to develop the grazing lands of the country. Marketable cattle and sheep can, without doubt, be raised in most of New Zealand cheaper than anywhere else in the world; for the grazing period is good all the year and but little feed is necessary, even in the remote south of the islands.

There are but four countries on which the world's markets can depend for surplus meat supplies, and these are Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, and Uruguay. The population of each, with totals of cattle and sheep to be supplied, is as follows:

Countries.	Population.	Cattle.	Sheep.
Argentina	7,123,638	29,120,000	85,544,000
Australia	4,872,023	11,497,943	85,049,697
New Zealand	1,120,664	2,020,171	24,798,763
Uruguay	1,094,088	8,162,602	20,286,296

During 1914 these countries sold to Great Britain alone, 12,788,836 frozen sheep carcasses, and 1,433,034 frozen beef carcasses, weighing in all about 694,460 tons. To date the exports of frozen beef and mutton from Australia have been 5 per cent of the sheep and 3 per cent of the cattle; from New Zealand, 25 per cent of the sheep and 4 per cent of the cattle; and from South America, 3 per cent of the sheep and 3 per cent of the cattle; while from older countries as many as 20 per cent of the cattle and 40 per cent of the sheep are slaughtered. The increase of sheep in New Zealand very nearly reaches 100 per cent.

NEW MARKETS DESIRED FOR SPANISH EXPORTS.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 4.]

A commission recently organized to promote the export of Spanish products announces that among other petitions received by it were 3 from Seville industries, 2 from Badajoz, 2 from Cadiz, and 1 from Caceres, in this consular district, with a total of 71 from other parts of Spain. The commission does not specify the particular industries in this district that desire new outlets, but gives a list of commodities for which foreign markets are wanted. These include paper, electrical machinery, preserved fish and vegetables, printing type, chocolate, biscuits, paints, chemical products, sanitary supplies, fertilizers, silver-plated tableware, alpaca, glass and glassware, ground peppers, textiles, olive oil, soaps, cider, hats, iron and steel products, hardware and cutlery, waterproof cloth, flour, cement, candles, agricultural tools, and cork products.

Consul General Ernest L. Harris, of Stockholm, reports that during the eight months, January to August, 1915, the income of the Swedish State from customs, taxes, net railway income, etc., amounted to \$26,237,200, as compared with \$26,325,640 during the like period of 1914.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the **Bureau and its branch offices.**]

Gauges, No. 18882.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Italy that a firm in his district desires to purchase a quantity of "limit gauges" for machine tools, the sizes of which should be stated in the metric system. Payment will be made against documents. References are given. Correspondence may be in English.

Metals, tools, etc., No. 18883.—The commercial agent in charge of the Bureau's branch office in New York reports that the representative of a firm in Sweden desires to purchase, for cash in New York, metals, tools, and machine tools.

Locomotive repairs, No. 18884.—An American consular officer in Chile transmits a report relative to an opportunity for the sale of repair parts for locomotives. A copy of the report may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

Hardware, office supplies, etc., No. 18885.—The commercial agent in charge of the Bureau's branch office in New York reports the desire of a representative of a firm in Colombia to represent American manufacturers or exporters of hardware, office supplies, and paper in that country. Catalogues and agency details should be forwarded at once. References are given.

Fire-fighting apparatuses and appliances, No. 18886.—An American consular officer in Uruguay reports that a man in his district wishes to receive catalogues of fire-fighting apparatuses and appliances. Similar catalogues should also be sent to the American consulate.

Stationery, No. 18887.—An American consular officer in France transmits the names of business firms in his district which desire to represent American manufacturers or exporters of stationery.

Wire rope, No. 18888.—The Bureau is informed by the commercial agent in charge of its branch office in New York City that the purchasing agent of a firm in Portugal, who is now in this country, desires to purchase 500,000 meters of galvanized wire rope of 10 millimeters in diameter, composed of 7 wires of 3 millimeters diameter and one central hemp core. The rope should have a breaking strain of 60 to 70 kilos per square millimeter and should be supplied in rolls of 500 meters. Samples and prices should be forwarded at once. It is stated that 60,000 to 100,000 meters of the rope must be delivered within one month after the order has been given.

Wall paper, No. 18889.—The representative of a South American Republic has informed the Bureau that a business man in his country desires to purchase wall paper ranging in price from 5 cents to 80 cents per roll of 8 yards. He will pay cash. Samples and full information should be sent at once.

Sponges, No. 18890.—A business man in France has informed an American consular officer that he desires to represent American exporters of sponges.

Appliances for sugar factories, No. 18891.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Argentina who desires to receive catalogues and price lists of articles used in sugar factories, such as cloths for mechanical filters and filter presses, packing, manometers, vacuumeters, lubricators, glass disks for evaporating plants and vacuum pans, steel tubes of all kinds, screws of all kinds, paints, cloths or perforated brass or copper sheets for centrifugals, etc.

Vacuum sweepers, No. 18892.—An American consular officer in Canada reports the desire of a firm in his district to receive catalogues and price lists of vacuum sweepers.

Chemicals, No. 18893.—The Bureau has received a letter from a man in Panama who desires to learn the names of American manufacturers of turmeric and other preparations of curcuma.

Machinery, No. 18894.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of machines for applying the filling or covering to cloth for window shades. Prices, etc., should be sent at once. Reference is given.

- Chemicals*, No. 18895.—The commercial agent in charge of the Bureau's branch office in Chicago reports the desire of a firm in India to receive prices, c. i. f. destination, on chloride of magnesium, chloride of zinc (96°), farrina flour, and Epsom salt.
- Aluminum goods*, No. 18896.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that a commission agent in that country desires to receive catalogues, prices, etc., of American aluminum goods, such as spoons and novelties. Reference is given.
- Celluloid*, No. 18897.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in England that a firm desires to purchase celluloid in sheets for use in the manufacture of Christmas cards. The firm states that it purchases in large quantities, and requests prices, terms, and definite information with regard to time of delivery. Reference is given.
- Tin foil and paper*, No. 18898.—An American consular officer in France reports that a man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of tin foil and paper.
- Cable*, No. 18899.—A business man in Norway has informed an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of vulcanized (stranded) cable. The quality must conform to 1911 Code in the United States. Principal size used is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (0.069 inch) square. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.
- Women's hosiery*, No. 18900.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Australia reports that a firm of manufacturers' agents in that country desires to represent American manufacturers of lace, lisle, and silk hosiery. Reference is given.
- Printing ink*, No. 18901.—An American consular officer in Japan reports that a firm desires to purchase American printing ink. The firm states that if favorable connections can be secured business will be transacted on the basis of confirmed letter of credit.
- Towels*, No. 18902.—A business man in France has informed an American consular officer that he desires to represent American manufacturers of towels.
- Hyper-phosphate of lime*, No. 18903.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in the Canary Islands that a man in his district desires to purchase large quantities of hyper-phosphate of lime. Prompt delivery is essential. He states that he will pay cash against bill of lading at destination. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Time of delivery and terms on quantities up to 10 tons should be clearly stated.
- Blasting fuses*, No. 18904.—A firm of merchants in South Africa has informed an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of blasting fuses. Prices and samples are desired. The specifications state that the fuses must pass the Government regulations for South Africa, the burning time being 90 to 110 seconds per yard; that they must be packed in tin-lined air-tight wooden cases, each case containing 20 packets of 25 rings 24 feet long.
- Meat products, confectionery, toilet articles, etc.*, No. 18905.—A man in the United States has transmitted to the Bureau the names and addresses of business firms in the West Indies which desire to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers of packing-house products, chocolate and candy products, perfumery, and toilet articles.
- Toys*, No. 18906.—An American consular officer in France has transmitted the name of a business man in his district who desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of toys of all kinds.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

CRISIS IN CHINA LEAD MARKET.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 3.]

A serious crisis has developed in the import trade in lead in Hongkong, affecting directly and vitally the lead trade in all China; and a number of industries dependent upon supplies of the metal for existence are in serious straits. Lead, pig and bars, was imported into China last year to the amount of 7,256 short tons, valued at \$577,597, as compared with 7,502 short tons, valued at \$562,176, in 1913, while sheet and "tea" lead was imported to the amount of 230 short tons, valued at \$21,505, compared with imports of 246 short tons, valued at \$22,574, in 1913. Nine-tenths of all these imports come from Australia direct or through Hongkong, the latter port directly handling about two-thirds of the whole. Of the 6,000 tons or so imported into Hongkong annually, Canton uses from 250 to 300 tons a month in its various paint and other establishments, Hongkong importers listing about 40 factories in Canton using the metal.

The Australian Government has just stopped the export of lead from that Commonwealth as a war measure, and for the time being the Hongkong market and through it the Chinese markets are practically without supplies. In addition to the Chinese trade ordinarily handled through Hongkong large quantities are imported into Hongkong for local industries and for export to other far eastern countries. It is probable that the annual imports into Hongkong have a customs valuation of over \$500,000 gold in normal years. Small amounts of lead are imported into China in ordinary years from Japan, Great Britain, and Russia, but the supplies from Europe for the time being have been shut off and at present there is no supply of a material sort coming from other sources.

The effect of the shortage of the metal is felt particularly in the tea trade, the larger portion of the supplies being used for manufacturing the lead sheets with which tea chests are lined to protect the tea from dampness. Various other industries, like the pewter industry at Swatow, are likely to suffer seriously. Arrivals of lead the present year have amounted to only about 3,000 tons. The price quoted at present is £23, or about \$112 gold per ton, as compared with about £14, or \$68 gold per ton a year ago. There are about 1,000 tons of the metal now in stock in Hongkong—about half the usual stock.

Correction in Steamboat-Inspection Rules.

Notices have been sent out to the United States supervising and local inspectors in the first, second, third, fifth, and tenth districts of the Steamboat-Inspection Service calling attention to a correction that should be made in the edition of August 11, 1915, of the General Rules and Regulations, by the substitution of the word "with" for "of," on page 122, in the third line of the fourth paragraph of section 8 of Rule IX, making the sentence read:

The filling pipes on tanks shall run through the top of tank and be carried to the bottom with a U bend extending upward at least 12 inches above the bottom to prevent filling pipe from clogging, to expel gases in the tank through the vent pipes when tanks are being filled.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 250 Washington, D. C., Monday, October 25 1915

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ADDITIONS TO BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Telegram from American Consul General, London, October, 1915.]

The exportation of all manufactures and products of cotton, except cotton lace and cotton waste, is now prohibited to all countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than France, Russia, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. The same prohibition applies to arsenical ore, black plates, and black sheets under one-eighth inch in thickness, ramie, furs, dressed or undressed, and manufactures thereof. The former item, "grindstones, carborundum, and emery wheels," subject to the same prohibition, is amended to read "grindstones and emery corundum, natural or artificial, such as alundum, carborundum, and crystolon, and manufactures thereof, including wheels, disks, paper, cloth, stones, and powder.

Coke from gas works and coal of all kinds, not including coal allowed by the customs authorities to be shipped as bunker coal, are now under embargo except when shipped to British possessions and protectorates. Copper wire, insulated electric light wires and cables, and power cables are under similar embargo, the last three being new items. Chronometers and nautical instruments of all kinds, compasses for ships and parts thereof (including fittings such as binacles), animal hair of all kinds, and tops, noils, and yarns of animal hair, formerly prohibited to European countries except the allied countries, Spain, and Portugal, are now prohibited to all foreign destinations other than British possessions.

The exportation of acetic ether, ether, phosgene (carbonyl chloride), and platinum to all destinations is now prohibited.

SWISS EMBARGO ON COTTON.

[Telegram from American Minister, Berne, Oct. 20, 1915.]

The exportation from Switzerland of cotton, cotton yarn, and mixed yarns has been prohibited by an order put into effect October 19.

WAR'S EFFECT ON DUTCH HOTELS AND SUMMER RESORTS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 30.]

While the war has detrimentally affected some producing and trading industries of the Netherlands (though materially, if not entirely, offsetting this by stimulating certain other industries), it has had the beneficial effect of keeping in this country a large sum of money which in peace times has been distributed in other countries.

Every Hollander takes a summer vacation of two weeks or more. Everyone who can afford it (and that includes thousands of people) usually spends his vacation in a foreign land. This year so few did so that their number was negligible. Yet they all had their customary vacation, but it was spent at Dutch seaside and rural resorts. Some of these were thronged during the past summer as they were never before. Though foreigners were relatively few on account of the war, their absence was supplied by Dutch people.

However, while the hotels at these resorts reaped an abundant harvest, the hotels in the cities keenly felt the lack of foreign tourists during the past summer. Large hotels in which in peace times accommodation could be had in summer only by advance application, and which then refused to make pension rates, were this year so lacking in guests that they were inclined to accept upon almost any terms such as did come. Dividends will be rare on the business of such hotels this year. But happily for their stockholders the capital investments are relatively small, and a very large profit balance is not necessary to yield a fair dividend. I am told that the greatest capital stock of any hotel in Amsterdam is 700,000 florins (\$281,400).

BEGINNING A NEW FISHERY.

The auxiliary fishing schooner *Stranger*, in the service of the Bureau of Fisheries, landed its first fare of about 8,000 pounds of tilefish at Fulton Market, New York City, on October 21. This large, attractive appearing and excellent food fish, which soon after its discovery in 1877, was supposed to have been exterminated by a submarine cataclysm, is now abundant near the 100-fathom line, within easy sailing distance of New York and Boston. To introduce a new sea food into the market and to give employment to a small fleet of fishing vessels ordinarily idle during the fall and winter, the bureau is conducting a campaign to acquaint both the consumer and the fisherman with the merits of the tilefish, and to this end it has prepared a circular giving a popular account of the fish and recipes for cooking it, and a large display card recommending it as a food. The circular or cookbook will be furnished on application, and the placard, which is illustrated with a cut of the fish, will be supplied to dealers willing to place the tilefish on sale. Address Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

Developments in the marble and stone-working industry of Barre, Vt., in the past five years are indicated in a statement on manufactures in that city, issued by the Bureau of the Census. The value of the products of this industry forms practically nine-tenths of the total for the city. While the number of these establishments decreased from 114 in 1909 to 88 in 1914 there was an increase of 11.4 per cent in value of products and of 4.7 per cent in capital invested.

BRADFORD SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Oct. 4.]

The declared exports to the United States from the Bradford consular district during September, 1915, amounted to \$1,231,057, as compared with \$2,744,071 in September, 1914. This decline is largely due to smaller shipments of raw wool, which only amounted last month to \$198,706, as against \$761,141 in the corresponding month of 1914. No wool tops were shipped, while in September, 1914, the exports amounted to \$266,215; and the shipments of wool yarns were practically negligible, as against \$131,299 in September, 1914. There was also a large falling off in the shipments of woollens and worsteds and in wool dress goods and linings. Cotton cloths, however, which are principally linings, showed an increase, the total for such shipments being \$225,974 as compared with \$161,379 in September, 1914. Spun-silk yarns also showed an increase, such shipments amounting to \$89,892.

The total shipments during the nine months of the present year amount to \$12,012,140, as compared with \$26,085,361 in the corresponding period of last year.

In regard to the Government restrictions on exports, it is evident that, despite the announcement that licenses would be granted for a limited amount (125,000 bales) of crossbred and similar wools, such licenses for shipments to the United States are not being granted very freely, but it is understood that some firms have received licenses and it is hoped that others will soon be received. The export of crossbred wool tops is now being agitated, but even if the matter is favorably entertained by the Government it is believed locally that the export will be limited to shipments to allied countries, which in this connection would mean France and Italy.

In compliance with the demands of the Admiralty an embargo has been placed on cotton cloth suitable for aircraft, so as to guard against the possibility of such cloth reaching enemy countries through neutral States. While this is a matter which primarily affects the Manchester or Lancashire trade, it is also of considerable interest to Bradford merchants and exporters, who handle large quantities of cotton cloths, receiving the goods in the gray from Lancashire and having them dyed and finished in Bradford. Such cloths consist not only of umbrella cloths, linings, etc., but also of dress goods.

Cotton linings and dress goods are normally shipped in large quantities to the United States from this consular district. The test by which it is intended to discriminate between cloths which are unsuitable for air craft and those which might be so applied is one of count, weight, and ratio of strength to weight. Complete details of the required test are expected to be made public very shortly. For cloths which are unsuitable for air craft a Chamber of Commerce certificate will be required, while for cloths which might be useful for air craft a license from the War Trade Department in London will be required.

Platinum prices were uniformly \$43.50 per ounce during the first seven months of 1914, went up to \$50 in September, receded to \$42 in December, 1914, and are now (October, 1915) \$51 to \$55.

DEVICE FOR COTTONSEED-OIL COLOR TESTS.

Incidental to the cottonseed-oil color tests that have been made by the United States Bureau of Standards, there is special interest in the design and construction of a labor-saving device for computing. By its use the computer can now do in a short time with ease what was formerly a long and onerous task. The glass blower and optician have prepared for the use of the bureau special glass cells designed to contain oil for fading tests which involve optical measurement of color.

LARGE INCREASE IN EXPORTS OF AMERICAN AUTOMOBILES.

American automobile manufacturers doubled their sales abroad last year, their exports of automobiles and parts thereof in the year ending June 30, 1915, having aggregated over \$74,000,000, against \$38,000,000 in 1914, \$2,000,000 in 1904, and \$1,000,000 in 1902, the first year of record. The gains were most pronounced in the second half of the fiscal year, and if the record made by July is maintained until the end of December, which seems probable from present indications, the total exports of automobiles in the calendar year 1915 will be well above \$120,000,000.

All parts of the world are buying American motor trucks and passenger automobiles, about 80 different countries being represented in the year's sales. Our motor trucks are being sold most largely in England, France, and Russia. In Greece, Denmark, Sweden, and Serbia sales have also reached unparalleled proportions. Increased sales are likewise being made in many countries far removed from the war zone, including Canada, Cuba, Central America, Java, Australia, British South Africa, and in our own territories of Hawaii, Porto Rico, and Alaska.

The year's exports of passenger automobiles were slightly less than those of 1914. Large gains in exports to the United Kingdom, Asiatic Russia, Cuba, Central America, the British West Indies, British Guiana, Venezuela, and British East Africa were more than offset by numerous decreases occurring elsewhere, notably France, Germany, and various countries in Europe, South America, and Asia.

The constituent factors in the automobile export trade for the last two fiscal years are as follows:

Kinds.	1914	1915
Commercial automobiles	\$1,181,611	\$32,140,689
Passenger automobiles	25,392,963	21,113,953
Automobile tires	3,505,267	4,963,270
Automobile engines	1,391,853	1,405,334
Automobile parts	6,624,232	7,853,183
Total exports to foreign countries	38,095,966	74,476,422
Total to Alaska	68,435	91,331
Total to Hawaii	1,285,278	1,514,585
Total to Porto Rico	666,906	775,879

Countries Buying Motor Vehicles.

A complete record of the United States export trade in automobiles is contained in the table which follows. It shows the number of automobiles of each class exported to the different countries in the fiscal years 1914 and 1915 and the value of the exports in the latter year:

Exported to—	Commercial auto- mobiles.			Passenger automobiles.			Auto parts.	
	Number.		Value.	Number.		Value.	Value.	
	1914	1915	1915	1914	1915	1915	1914	1915
Total.....	784	13,996	\$39,141,000	28,308	23,880	\$21,114,000	\$6,624,000	\$7,853,000
England.....	213	5,303	14,042,000	6,992	8,321	6,849,000	1,282,000	3,283,000
France.....	2	4,990	13,514,000	1,427	451	253,000	179,000	481,000
Russia (European).....	2	2,251	7,667,000	926	907	1,528,000	14,000	124,000
Greece.....	1	142	427,000	25	36	28,000		2,000
Belgium.....	100	3 5,000	244	12	15,000	21,000		
Denmark.....	44	25,000	703	219	156,900	9,000		14,000
Italy.....	1	1	8,000	342	114	70,000	51,000	66,000
Norway.....	2	3	5,000	145	125	89,000	2,000	16,000
Sweden.....	1	10	18,000	324	137	109,000	6,000	4,000
Austria-Hungary.....	3			314	4	2,000	5,000	1,000
Germany.....	24	4	3,000	1,411	16	17,000	213,000	14,000
Finland.....				106	17	9,000	3,000	1,000
Scotland.....	4	11,000	25	143	83,000	23,000	29,000	
Ireland.....	1	7,000	2	159	157,000			
Netherlands.....	1	9	19,000	141	96	132,000	8,000	3,000
Portugal.....	8	5	10,000	59	14	18,000	2,000	3,000
Serbia and Montenegro.....	10	6,000	4	2	3,000			
Spain.....	1	2,000	53	71	60,000	6,000	7,000	
Switzerland.....			79	2	1,000	1,000		
Turkey, European.....	1	2	8,000	35				
Gibraltar.....			64	9	6,000			
Azores and Madeira.....			20	18	10,000			
Bulgaria.....			43					
Iceland.....			5	3	2,000			1,000
Canada.....	247	306	705,000	4,377	4,127	3,723,000	3,664,000	2,741,000
British Honduras.....			4	1	1,000			1,000
Central America Republics.....	13	14	29,000	118	176	131,000	28,000	41,000
Mexico.....	12	8	14,000	155	70	67,000	42,000	31,000
Newfoundland.....	1	1	1,000	5	17	12,000		4,000
West Indies—								
Cuba.....	19	21	35,000	297	1,350	746,000	48,000	101,000
Danish.....				3	3	1,000		1,000
British.....	4	3	7,000	140	196	129,600	44,000	52,000
French.....		2	4,000	65	54	35,000	8,000	7,000
Dutch.....	1	1	1,000	13	24	17,000		5,000
Haiti.....				2				
Dominican Republic.....	1	2	3,000	11	28	15,000		4,000
Argentina.....	48	3	3,000	940	626	294,000	93,000	50,000
Bolivia.....				4	10	5,000	1,000	3,000
Brazil.....	13	3	3,000	297	61	53,000	85,000	29,000
Chile.....	2			195	86	51,000	22,000	27,000
Colombia.....		1	1,000	79	39	35,000	20,000	10,000
Ecuador.....				21	20	11,000	6,000	4,000
British Guiana.....		1	1,000	16	45	24,000	5,000	5,000
Dutch Guiana.....				7	9	4,000	1,000	2,000
Paraguay.....					5	2,000		1,000
Peru.....	3	2	3,000	36	24	21,000	8,000	5,000
Uruguay.....	1			183	45	26,000	21,000	14,000
Venezuela.....	12	3	7,000	126	227	143,000	36,000	29,000
Aden.....				28	9	7,000	2,000	
China.....	7			144	103	104,000	6,000	21,000
French China.....		1	2,000					
Chosen (Korea).....				2	2	2,000	3,000	
India.....	7	7	9,000	437	315	275,000	48,000	45,000
Russia, Asiatic.....	596		1,903,000	12	551	1,478,000		107,000
Straits Settlements.....	7			262	77	70,000	25,000	20,000
Other British East Indies.....		1	3,000	82	25	20,000	4,000	4,000
Dutch East Indies.....	7	11	10,000	280	105	87,000	15,000	15,000
Hongkong.....			1,000	11	2	1,000	1,000	1,000
Japan.....	1	1	3,000	96	28	28,000	36,000	28,000
Siam.....				37	13	10,000	5,000	2,000
Turkey, Asiatic.....	1	5	26,000	7	1	1,000		
Australia and Tasmania.....	32	57	84,000	3,099	2,150	1,768,000	202,000	199,000
New Zealand.....	39	20	32,000	1,065	938	784,000	54,000	48,000
Philippine Islands.....	38	27	62,000	614	407	425,000	70,000	40,000
French Oceania.....	4			46	8	7,000	8,000	5,000
British Oceania.....				9	2	2,000	1,000	
British South Africa.....	12	15	40,000	1,618	695	731,000	157,000	100,000
British East Africa.....				49	120	75,000	3,000	4,000
British West Africa.....	1			32	42	21,000	6,000	7,000
Egypt.....				22	1	1,000		1,000
Morocco.....				63	25	11,000		3,000
Other Africa.....	2			77	40	24,000	5,000	6,000
German Oceania.....					1	5,000		

NOTE.—The shipments to American territories included: Hawaii, 864 automobiles valued at \$972,000; Porto Rico, 548 valued at \$433,000; Alaska, 59 valued at \$80,000 in fiscal year 1915.

COTTONSEED-OIL MILLS MAKING PEANUT OIL.

Production of oil from the peanut is being tried by some cottonseed-oil mills in the United States. The short cotton crop this season and soaring prices for cotton seed have offered the prospect of a curtailment of the season unless some change were made. Several oil mills in North Carolina are reported to have been successful in the experiment of substituting peanuts for the customary raw material.

Figures are given to show that the peanut yields between 50 and 60 gallons of oil to the ton, comparing favorably with the yield from cotton seed. The strength in ammonia of the cake is also an important element favoring the peanut.

A Tarboro mill was the first to install the necessary machinery for this change in the raw material used, and after the experiment had extended over several weeks the company purchased more than 200 tons of last season's crop of peanuts and entered upon the extracting of the oil and grinding of the cake with full confidence in the results.

This season's quotations on cotton seed have been in marked contrast to those prevailing last year, when the farmers of the South sold the seed for much lower prices than they had received for several years—as low as \$12 a ton in some instances. A recent report was received from Montgomery, Ala., that cotton seed, for the first time in the history of that State, had sold for \$50 a ton. Prices of from \$36 to \$40 a ton at Dallas have been quoted as the highest on record in that section.

Possibilities in the utilization of peanuts may be estimated from the imports, which for the year ended June 30, 1915, were: Not shelled, 14,540,982 pounds, valued at \$490,779; shelled, 9,643,691, valued at \$333,980.

SWISS COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

In order that American business men may be able to procure condensed, authoritative information with respect to the way in which the European nations carry on trade campaigns and organize their commercial activities at home, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has been issuing pamphlet presentations of the subject covering several of the leading European countries. Monographs on Germany, France, and the United Kingdom have already appeared, and one on Switzerland is the latest to come from the press.

This booklet, entitled "Commercial Organizations in Switzerland," reviews the history of chambers of commerce and trade, explains the independent and official types of organizations and their functions, and gives particular attention to the Swiss Commercial and Industrial Association, which comprises in its membership all Swiss commercial organizations of consequence. There is a discussion of the Swiss Federal Department of Commerce and an outline of its evolution, as well as general information concerning such matters as the localization of industries, principal products, and commercial publications.

It is No. 101 in the Special Agents Series, and 5 cents will bring it from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Transvaal coal is being tested by Egyptian railways.

SWEDISH-AMERICAN LINE BUYS FIRST SHIP.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Goteborg, Sweden, Oct. 2.]

The Swedish-American Line (Rederiaktiebolaget Sverige-Nordamerika) has purchased the first vessel for its direct mail, passenger, and freight service [mention of which was made in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Nov. 8, 1913, and Dec. 11 and 28, 1914]. The vessel is the steel twin-screw *Potsdam*, formerly belonging to the Holland-America Line, having a length of 550 feet, a draft of 34 feet, and a speed of 15½ knots; the gross tonnage is 12,606 and the displacement 22,070 tons. It can carry 275 first-cabin, 225 second-cabin, and 2,000 steerage passengers. The *Potsdam* will arrive at Goteborg in November and will immediately be put in commission on the run to New York.

The present depth of water (28 feet) at the Goteborg quays is not sufficient to permit of the *Potsdam* coming alongside. Two years ago the Government approved plans for dredging the entrance channel and berths to 33 feet, and it is likely that this work will be begun in the near future. Even with this improvement, however, the *Potsdam* could take on only a portion of its cargo at the quay and would be compelled to go out and anchor at Rifo Fjord to complete loading. With regard to depth of water Goteborg is no worse off than many other large harbors. There are many foreign ports which Atlantic liners can not enter, the vessels being obliged to anchor outside. The inconveniences resulting from this course can partly be overcome by the construction of landing piers, etc., and according to the local press similar arrangements will have to be made here.

SPAIN'S WINE AND GRAPE PRODUCTION.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Sept. 27.]

The Directorate General of Agriculture publishes to-day advance statistics of Spain's wine and grape production for 1915. It is thought that the final figures will be practically the same. The grape crop is placed at 895,036 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), of which 829,319 tons were devoted to wine making, producing 267,142,400 gallons of must.

The above figures are much below the corresponding totals for 1914, as the following summary discloses:

	1914	1915	Decrease.
Grape production.....tons..	1,400,050	895,036	505,014
Grapes used for wine making.....do..	1,204,431	829,319	465,142
Production of must.....galls..	427,109,275	267,142,400	159,966,875

There were 3,169,114 acres under grape cultivation in Spain this season, as against 3,066,830 acres in 1914.

Chilean Nitrate Production.

Official figures of the production of Chilean nitrate during the first two months (July and August) of the current nitrate year place the total at 6,365,022 quintals of 101.4 pounds; during the like period of 1914-15 the output was 10,552,764 quintals. For August alone production totaled 3,443,409 quintals, compared with 4,839,657 a year ago.

NEW FIBERS FOR PAPER MAKING.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Aug. 23.]

The success that attended the experiments undertaken some time ago by the Argentine Bureau of Forestry to produce a commercial pulp from the pines (*Araucaria imbricata*) of Neuquen territory directed attention to other pine-bearing areas of the Republic, and announcement has just been made of the successful conclusion of similar experiments with cellulose from Misiones.

The Misiones pines, although possessing characteristics different from those of the trees of Neuquen, show practically identical results. The fiber of the former is longer, but, on the other hand, that of the Neuquen pine is more resistant, and in both cases one-half ton of pulp can be obtained from a ton of the wood. Another basic difference offered by the pine of Misiones is that it has its resin between the wood and the bark, thus obviating the necessity of extracting that product.

The experiments with Misiones trees were not made with white pine, but with a specimen whose wood had a reddish color, due to soil influences. In spite of this, the fiber when treated with bisulphite gave a pulp surpassing in whiteness that of the paper materials which are imported from Europe.

Will Prove a New Source of Wealth.

In commenting on the outcome of the Bureau of Forestry's work the local newspapers said:

It is needless to dwell upon the importance of these experiments and the opportunity they offer for the promotion of an industry which, in a more or less short period, is capable of becoming a constant source of riches. If, as the results of the experiments made up to now allow it to be hoped, the pulp obtained from the pine trees of Neuquen and Misiones is a good article commercially, the enormous supplies of these forests will permit the satisfying of the national needs and the exportation of the remainder. Moreover, the stands of pine in Misiones are largely on public lands, so that the Government would be the first beneficiary from their industrial utilization.

Prior to the war in Europe—that is to say, in the year 1913—there were imported into Argentina more than 70,500,000 pounds of wood pulp, 8,289,400 pounds of which came from Germany, 19,290,500 pounds from Norway, 38,801,400 pounds from Sweden, 1,964,300 pounds from the United States, 910,500 pounds from Denmark, 846,500 pounds from Holland, 343,900 pounds from Switzerland, and 264,500 pounds from Austria.

[The Indian (Government) Trade Journal, Aug. 13.]

Indian Weed Yields a Good Fiber.

Whether *Hedychium coronarium* will ever be used to any large extent in other countries is problematical, but it seems worth while for Indian paper makers to give it their attention. This plant of the ginger family is distributed from the Himalayas to Ceylon and Malakka, ascending to 4,000 feet in the Khasia Hills and 6,000 feet in Ceylon. It is also native in Central America, the West Indies, New Zealand, Mauritius, and West Africa (Corsico Bay). Many years ago it was introduced into Brazil, where it has been wild in many of the States. In India the plant appears to thrive best in swampy tracts, but here also it runs wild.

As a paper-making material it seems to have first been put forward by Brazil, but those who have experimented with it are disposed to

think that *Hedygium coronarium* will yield good paper-making qualities from whatever part of the world it is gathered, and that any differences in the pulp from Calcutta as compared with that from Brazil are to be attributed to the method of preparing the raw fiber prior to shipment rather than to any variation in the growth of the plant itself. The pulp it yields is easy to manipulate and is capable of producing a paper of exceptional strength.

A Valuable Swamp Crop.

In India hedygium is a common wild plant in swamps and wet places, and on the edges of paddy fields. It is easily propagated. In one of the plantation districts in the south the estates are very much broken up with valleys and nullahs, the latter carrying off monsoon water, and consequently there are many swamps which can not be put under either tea or coffee. These are a source of trouble to the planter, since they grow weeds that seed into cultivated areas, and are apt also to be reserves of scales, grasshoppers, and various harmful insects, which escape to the coffee and tea.

It was suggested some years ago that such swamps might be planted with a plant that could be kept under control and cut and used as a mulch. The suggestion was adopted. In at least one instance hedygium was the plant selected as a useful, clean weed. It was a great success. It grew quickly, exterminating all other weeds and shrubs; and each year it is cut at regular intervals and used as a mulch for the grower's staple products. The same plan is now being carried out on other areas, and there is no doubt that the supplies of the plant could be increased very largely.

It has been grown also in British Guiana, and a recent report states that the first planting produced 28 tons of stalk and leaves per acre as a five months' crop on dry land. On irrigated land the first trial failed.

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, Germany, Sept. 20.]

Successful German Experiments with Hop Vines.

Announcement has been made of the results of experiments undertaken by the Institute of Chemical Technology at Brunswick looking toward the discovery of new and cheaper methods of manufacturing paper from vegetable fibers. Willow-tree bark and broom fiber did not give satisfactory results. Experiments were then made with the fiber of hop vines, of which there is a plentiful supply in Germany.

It was found that when the fibers are treated with lye their separation is difficult. They are more easily separated by soaking in a 0.5 per cent solution of an inorganic acid. The same result can be obtained by a steam pressure of half an atmosphere. Separation of the fiber is easier when working with old hop vines that have stored for a long time in the open air. It follows that storage in the open air or, better still, artificial storage in a warm, moist storehouse, is the best method of furthering separation. In this way a return of 20 per cent of good fibers was obtained.

The remaining wood, when treated with soda lye under a pressure of 3 atmospheres, produced an excellent paper pulp, and the roots of the vines yield an especially long fiber.

SWANSEA MARKET FOR LEATHER BAGS AND CASES.

[Consul W. L. Jenkins, detailed as vice consul at Swansea, Wales, Sept. 29.]

The value of "leather manufactures, unenumerated (other than boots, shoes, belting, and gloves)" imported into the United Kingdom in 1914, was \$2,838,069, as compared with \$4,824,852 in 1913, and \$4,208,130 in 1912. Germany supplied the largest part of these imports, its share amounting to \$2,251,062 in 1914, \$4,290,131 in 1913, and \$3,789,173 in 1912. The respective values from the United States were \$358,860, \$158,312, and \$133,342. The United States was the only country the imports from which during 1914 showed a considerable increase over those for the two preceding years.

Official statistics for the Swansea consular district alone are not available, but the demand for leather handbags and suit cases is considered to be a steady one. There is one firm handling sample cases and extension-tray bags, but in the absence of large wholesale houses there is only a small and occasional trade in these articles. The manager of this firm states that half Gladstone cowhide bags, with trays and divisions, retail for \$6 to \$8.50.

Local Interest in American Goods.

Local dealers are interested in hearing from American firms exporting hand bags and suit cases, as prices have increased over 25 per cent since the outbreak of war, due to the shortage of leather. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Swansea, in English currency, and should be accompanied by fully illustrated catalogues or descriptive circulars.

Women's hand bags retail from \$2.25 to \$10.25 and men's cases from \$7.25 to \$14.50, in all sizes from 20 inches to 28 inches and having either nickel or brass fittings. One dealer states that a general criticism of American bags is that they have too much brass about them to suit the average Britisher. Gun-case handles are preferred.

An active London agent carrying samples should find it worth while to visit this district, but in the absence of such a connection, American exporters could doubtless obtain by correspondence trial orders that might lead to a profitable trade in the future.

[The names of two Swansea firms that sell leather bags and cases may be obtained upon request from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 67458.]

COPRA CRUSHING AT LIVERPOOL.

[Consul Horace Lee Washington, Liverpool, England, Sept. 30.]

A \$1,500,000 company has been formed in Liverpool to handle raw material used by margarin and fiber manufacturers, also coffee, cocoa, tobacco, and castor oil. The concern has also acquired a palm coconut estate of 25,000 acres in Brazil and further estates of about 320,000 acres bearing all kinds of tropical produce.

Heavy shipments of coconuts from West Africa, Brazil, and elsewhere have been coming to Liverpool, but the bulk of them has been transhipped to other ports for manufacture. As such transshipments have ceased thousands of tons of coconuts have accumulated in Liverpool warehouses, probably a large percentage of which would deteriorate and result in total loss were it not for this new enterprise.

The nuts will now be crushed for the oil, on the Liverpool Dock Estate, and the margarin and other industries will be thus supplied with needed materials for their manufacture.

TANNING MATERIALS IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 3.]

The tanning materials used by Brazilian tanneries include: Carbatimão bark, obtained from the State of Minas Geraes, considered to be an excellent tanning material, containing about 60 per cent of tannin; angico bark, also obtained from the State of Minas Geraes, regarded as a good tanning material, very light in color, but containing only about 28 per cent of tannin; and mangue bark, which is found all along the Brazilian coast and is well known in the United States and Europe under the names of mangrove, palétuvier, etc.

There are no factories in this country manufacturing tanning extract, the bark being employed as such.

Local Tanneries Affected by Scarcity of Materials.

It is said that the principal reason for the undeveloped condition of the tanning industry in Brazil—which annually exports raw hides to the value of many millions of dollars and imports large quantities of foreign-tanned leather for manufacturing purposes—may be principally attributed to the scarcity of tanning material. There is only one important tannery in Rio de Janeiro, owned by Durisch & Co., 45 Rua da Alfandega; São Paulo and Porto Alegre each have several small ones.

The manager of the Rio firm states that although its establishment is working day and night, owing to the increased demand for leather in Europe, with a daily production of about 200 hides, it is believed that before many more months the factory will either have to close down entirely or work shorter hours, owing to the apparent growing scarcity of tanning materials.

Difficulties That Hamper Exportation.

The inquiry of an American firm at whose request this report has been prepared was shown to Durisch & Co., who state that Brazil, for the present at least, is not in position to export tanning materials. The difficulty which this country has found in the exploitation of its valuable hardwood forests (the best varieties of trees being situated far from railway facilities) and the high cost of labor and transportation at most interior points seem to have hampered the extraction of tanning materials, of which the country should possess large quantities.

At present rates of exchange the price of carbatimão and angico bark in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo averages about \$30 United States gold per metric ton (2,204.6 pounds).

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, Aug. 4.]

Supplies Might be Obtained from Pernambuco.

Barks for tanning may be exported from the Pernambuco district to the United States. Those most used are the angico and mangue, the former being the more abundant. Mangue leaves are also used, but they are not available for exportation because they easily lose their properties.

[Samples of mangue and angico bark, transmitted by Consul Haeberle, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign Commerce or its branches; the address of a Pernambuco dealer in tanning barks may be obtained from the same offices. Refer to file No. 65420.]

IRON PIPES AND FITTINGS FOR FAR EAST.

The following table shows the imports of iron pipes and fittings into Far Eastern countries during certain stated years, and the countries whence imported. The figures were compiled from official returns of the respective countries.

[1 picul=100 kin=133½ pounds; 1 Halkwan tael=in 1913, 72.9 cents, and in 1914, 66.7 cents; 1 yen=49.8 cents; £1=\$4.8665.]

	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.
CHINA.			JAPAN—continued.		
(Calendar year.)			Iron pipes and tubes, drawn, from—		
Iron and mild steel:			United Kingdom.....	<i>Km.</i> 478,164	<i>Yen.</i> 131,271
Pipes and tubes, from—	<i>Piculs.</i>	<i>Halkwan taels.</i>	Germany.....	243,946	26,422
Hongkong.....	4,418	27,907	Belgium.....	165,576	15,742
French Indo-China.....	129	1,154	Total.....	887,686	173,435
United Kingdom.....	23,704	134,543	Other iron pipes and tubes, from—		
Germany.....	5,787	35,447	United Kingdom.....	4,751,196	605,494
Belgium.....	9,366	49,080	Germany.....	7,892,721	611,183
France.....	522	2,821	Belgium.....	1,068,232	74,053
Russia and Siberia—			Switzerland.....	144,442	19,051
Land frontier.....	141	756	United States.....	32,767,057	2,435,141
Amur ports.....	36	162	Other countries.....	3,931	433
Pacific ports.....	1,499	11,523	Total.....	46,645,579	3,745,358
Japan, including Formosa.....	15,493	89,345	BRITISH INDIA.		
United States, including Hawaii.....	4,009	23,005	(Fiscal year ending Mar. 31, 1914.)		
Total imports, 1913.....	64,903	376,948	Pipes and fittings:		
Reexports, 1913.....	1,042	5,868	Cast, from—		
Net imports, 1913.....	63,861	371,080	United Kingdom.....	<i>Tons.</i> 42,583	<i>£</i> 415,275
Total imports, 1914.....	112,426	618,265	Germany.....	4,101	54,585
Reexports, 1914.....	3,687	19,473	Belgium.....	468	6,243
Net imports, 1914.....	108,439	598,792	United States.....	9,037	126,557
JAPAN.			Other countries.....	54	1,433
(Calendar year, 1914.)			Total.....	56,243	604,093
Iron pipes and tubes (elbows and joints), from—	<i>Km.</i>	<i>Yen.</i>	Wrought, from—		
Kwantung Province.....	578	46	United Kingdom.....	11,723	218,758
United Kingdom.....	184,993	44,909	Germany.....	3,448	48,456
Germany.....	47,902	13,872	Belgium.....	1,321	17,364
Belgium.....	3,006	568	United States.....	1,908	26,304
United States.....	503,524	88,906	Other countries.....	2	71
Total.....	740,003	148,301	Total.....	18,402	309,963
Iron pipes and tubes, cast, from—					
Kwantung Province.....	5,708	412			
United Kingdom.....	100,863	12,449			
Germany.....	97,787	10,028			
United States.....	487,922	40,042			
Other countries.....	595	41			
Total.....	692,875	62,972			

AUTUMN PRICES FOR SPANISH PIGS.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 4.]

The first contracts for the autumn slaughtering have been closed with Madrid butchers for 6,000 pigs to be killed in October and November from the districts of Andalusia, Estremadura, and Murcia. The price is said to be 1.73 pesetas per kilo, equivalent at present exchange to 14.2 cents per pound.

[A review of the swine industry of Andalusia appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, for June 26, 1915.]

LACK OF DIRECT SHIPS TO SICILY.

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Italy, Sept. 10.]

The greatest hindrance to the extension of American trade in Sicily is the inability to send goods direct to Sicilian ports. Formerly the *Sicula Americana* had some ships direct from American ports for Palermo, but none have come during the past year. The Hellenic Steamship Co., of Greece, has some ships which stop at Palermo on the voyage from New York to Piraeus, but so far as I can learn they have never discharged cargo at this port.

During normal times nearly all the ships going from Genoa and Naples call at Palermo on their way to New York, but none call on the voyage from New York to Naples or Genoa. If one or two ships a month would make Palermo the first port of call in Italy it would materially assist in the development of American trade.

Through Bills of Lading Would Help.

Even without making this the first port, matters would be helped if the shipping companies were to issue through bills of lading to Palermo. Under present conditions merchandise is billed to Genoa or Naples and there transferred to a local boat for Palermo. The result of this is a largely increased freight cost and a delay.

As illustrative of this point might be cited a shipment of merchandise sent to this consulate from New York via Genoa. The cost from New York to Genoa, including freight, insurance, and war risk was \$4; the cost of unloading and shipping to Palermo amounted to another \$4. This merchandise was unloaded in Genoa the middle of December and reached Palermo in March; had it remained on board the vessel in which it was shipped from New York it would have arrived in Palermo 10 days after it reached Genoa.

Another instance is that of a case of goods unloaded in Naples. The ship on which it came to Naples went afterwards to Genoa and then came to Palermo, and was here some two weeks before the case was received from Naples.

Special Holds for Palermo Freight.

Even if the steamship companies can not change their routings there would seem no reason why they could not consign the goods direct for Palermo and keep them on board until the vessel arrived here on its return trip. This might not be feasible for large cargoes, but for smaller shipments it could not interfere materially with the loading or unloading at other ports. This cargo could be put in holds reserved for Palermo freight.

The matter has been discussed with various agents here, but as they are not directly interested in the incoming freight, and as they have no authority to act, they have done nothing. However, if it were taken up with the steamship companies in New York, some improvement might be made in the service. I have been informed that a company in New York is contemplating putting on a line of steamers specially ventilated for carrying lemons from Palermo to New York, and if this service materializes it may bring about an improvement and should lead to increased trade in American products in Sicily.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Automobiles, No. 18907.—A firm in the United States has informed the Bureau that its agent in Spain desires to represent an American manufacturer of a high-class automobile costing from \$1,500 upward. He also desires to secure the agency for a worm-driven auto-omnibus.

Paraffin wax, No. 18908.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a business man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of paraffin wax. References are given.

Dairy machinery and appliances, No. 18909.—A firm in India has informed an American consular officer that it desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of dairy machinery and appliances.

Typewriters and supplies, No. 18910.—An American consular officer in France transmits the names of business men in his district who desire to represent American manufacturers or exporters of typewriters and supplies.

Hooks, No. 18911.—A hardware dealer in England has informed an American consular officer that he desires to communicate with the manufacturers of the "X hook" for hanging pictures (Patent No. 28289/09).

Sugar, No. 18912.—An American consular officer in Switzerland transmits a report relative to an opportunity for the sale of refined sugar. A copy of his report may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

Machinery, No. 18913.—A business firm in this country desires the names of American manufacturers of a machine to be used for wrapping lumps of sugar as required by the sanitary laws of Cuba.

Undertakers' supplies, No. 18914.—An American consular officer in France reports the desire of a firm in his district to represent American manufacturers or exporters of undertakers' supplies.

Automobiles and accessories, No. 18915.—The commercial agent in charge of the Bureau's branch office in New York reports that the representative of a foreign firm desires to represent American manufacturers of automobiles and accessories in Holland.

Clothing, etc., No. 18916.—The Bureau is informed by a commercial organization in the United States that a man in Argentina desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of wool and cotton clothing, and tailors' novelties and supplies.

Sugar-making plant, No. 18917.—An American consular officer in Honduras reports that a man in that country desires to purchase a small outfit for making raw sugar, including cane mill, kettle, and all necessary accessories for treating about 10 tons of cane daily, the plant to be operated by animal power. If possible, prices should be quoted for delivery at Amapala. The man states that he has no objection to paying cash for the goods if their delivery in good condition is guaranteed. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Upholstery leather, No. 18918.—A business man in France has informed an American consular officer that he desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of upholstery leather.

Leather bags, suit cases, etc., No. 18919.—An American consular officer in Wales reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and prices of leather bags, sample cases, and suit cases, with a view to securing the exclusive agency for that district, buying goods on their own account. The firm states that the minimum amount of brass is desirable and that drill or linen lining is satisfactory. Prices should be quoted in English currency and should be made c. i. f. destination.

Cotton, No. 18920.—A business firm in Sweden has informed an American consular officer that it desires to communicate with American producers of cotton in order that it may import direct.

Furniture, No. 18921.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Uruguay that the proprietors of a restaurant in his district desire to receive catalogues and prices of iron chairs and tables suitable for sidewalk use. Copies of the catalogues should also be sent to the consul.

Construction and operation of railway, No. 18922.—An American consular officer in England reports that tenders will be opened at the "Dirección General de Obras Públicas" in Madrid on November 12 for the construction and working, for a period of 99 years, of a secondary railway from Manacor to Arta, in the island of Majorca. The cost of construction is estimated at 4,401,265 pesetas (about \$874,267), on which interest not exceeding 5 per cent per annum will be guaranteed by the State. The minimum rolling stock required to work the line will be 4 locomotives, 13 passenger coaches, 5 brake vans, and 27 goods wagons. An option on the concession is held by Don Rafael Blanes Tolosa. Construction work must be begun within six months from the date of the award of the concession and completed within a period of two years. It is stated that, although the contract may be awarded to Spanish firms, the execution of the work may involve the purchase of materials abroad. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Nickel goods, No. 18923.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in England that a firm in his district desires to receive prices of nickel goods, such as shaving mirror stands, letter scales, china tea trays with nickel rims, etc. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. British ports if possible.

Corks, bottles, stationery, etc., No. 18924.—The Bureau is informed by a business man in Canada that he desires to receive catalogues and prices of chromos suitable for calendars, Christmas cards, etc.; corks of all sizes; cheap lead sprayers used for perfumery bottles; amber, blue, and plain bottles for packing chemicals, in sizes of 4, 6, 8, and 16 ounces; varnish tins and tin containers for chemicals and powders in sizes of 2, 4, 6, 8, and 16 ounces; cheap stationery; cheap bond paper; cover paper for mount boards; lead pencils; and aniline dyes.

Chemicals, soap, etc., No. 18925.—An American consular officer in Scotland reports that a firm in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of dyewood and dyestuffs, chemicals, machine blankets, lappings for paper mills, soap, rosin, and mineral colors.

Furniture, No. 18926.—A business firm in New York has informed the Bureau that its representative in Trinidad desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers of bentwood chairs and rockers.

Copper sulphate, No. 18927.—An American consular officer in Greece reports that a firm in his district desires to represent American exporters of copper sulphate. The sulphate should have a guaranteed strength of 98 to 99 per cent and should be shipped in casks containing 5 hundredweight each. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Correspondence may be in English.

Office supplies, No. 18928.—The Bureau is informed by a commercial organization in this country that a firm in France desires to receive catalogues, samples, and price lists of office supplies of various kinds, such as paper, typewriter ribbons, carbon paper, etc. Correspondence and printed matter may be in English.

Cotton goods, hardware, foodstuffs, etc., No. 18929.—A firm in the United States has informed the Bureau that a business firm in British Guiana desires to represent in British, Dutch, and French Guiana American manufacturers of cotton goods of various kinds; hardware, such as axes, galvanized-iron wire, buckets, tin plates, and cheap razors; food products, such as flour, oats, cottonseed oil, and lard; household furnishings, such as earthenware and enameled ware. The man also desires to secure a moving-picture agency.

Safety razors, No. 18930.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to receive prices on cheap safety razors in nickel cases. If possible, prices should be quoted c. i. f. British ports.

Marine hardware, cotton goods, etc., No. 18931.—The Bureau is informed by a commercial organization in this country that a business man in one of the Pacific islands desires to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., from American manufacturers of marine hardware, wire and wire fences, cotton cloth, cotton sheeting (150 to 180 centimeters wide), overalls, and horseshoes. Correspondence should be in French.

REGULATING COTTON SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN RUSSIA.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Sept. 1.]

According to a recent bill in Russia, there are to be established two special committees, one for supplying raw material to the cloth factories producing half-cotton goods and the other for supplying material to the cotton factories. According to the decision of the conference that took place on July 14, the committee for supplying cotton will consist of one representative of each of the following bodies: Ministries of Trade and Industry, Ways of Communication and Agriculture, the Army Supply Department, the Moscow Exchange, the Kokand Exchange, the cotton manufacturers of the Petrograd district, 5 representatives of the cotton manufacturers of the Moscow central district, and 3 representatives of the cotton dealers. The Minister of Trade will be the president of this committee. The functions of the committee include ascertaining the maximum prices to be established by the Ministry of Trade, investigating the requisition of such cotton supplies as the holders would not sell at prices fixed by the ministry, and distributing supplies among the factories.

The functions and rights of these committees will be established by special regulations, which will also determine their headquarters. It is supposed that the committees will be located in Moscow.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry will be authorized (in accordance with the judgment of the committees) to fix the price limits for cotton and to introduce all necessary measures, including the requisition of cotton for better distribution among consumers.

AMERICAN LUMBER USED IN PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Portugal, Sept. 18.]

Most of the foreign lumber used in Portugal is imported from Sweden and the United States, especially from the Gulf ports—Pensacola, Apalachicola, Gulfport, New Orleans, and Galveston. Pitch pine, oak, ash, and satinwood are the kinds of American lumber in demand. Pitch pine is used for roof building and flooring, oak and ash for building railway cars and trucks, and satinwood for furniture making.

The present price of pitch pine in Lisbon is between 56 and 62 cents per cubic foot, as compared with 42 cents before the war. The difference is not due to an increase in the price of the lumber itself, but to the exorbitant freight rates and the unusually low exchange.

The average sizes of pitch pine imported are 27½ and 30 cubic feet. The usual sizes of Swedish lumber imported are 3 by 9 and 3 by 10, employed mainly for beams and for making doors and windows. The price, owing to present circumstances, has increased about 70 per cent.

The stock of foreign lumber on hand is very small, but dealers state that they have no desire to increase it, in view of present conditions. The cheap native lumber, which sells for about 25 cents a cubic foot, is being used extensively, thus replacing to a considerable extent the imported product. Occasionally small shipments of pitch pine from New Orleans are received, to supply the most urgent demands of the market.

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OVERSTOCK OF RICE IN JAPAN.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Sept. 28.]

The "Chugai Shogyo" (Tokyo) urges the Japanese authorities to take immediate steps to export abroad some 2,000,000 koku (10,000,000 bushels) of rice, in order to relieve the depression on the rice market. In the early part of the present year the price of rice fell to 13 yen per koku (\$1.2948 per bushel), and the authorities adopted certain measures to regulate the price, withdrawing the sum of 5,000,000 yen (\$2,490,000) from the treasury and purchasing large quantities of rice on the domestic market. This step, however, had little result. Quotations in Tokyo, Osaka, and other districts continued to fall, and at present—September—delivery rates at 10 yen per koku (\$0.996 bushel), while October delivery is quoted at 11 yen per koku (\$1.0956 per bushel). The commercial paper fears that the market rates will show a still further depreciation when the new rice is actually placed on the market. Official returns just issued indicate that this year's crop will exceed 57,000,000 koku (285,000,000 bushels). The annual consumption of rice in this country amounts to about 55,000,000 koku (275,000,000 bushels). It will thus be seen that there will be a surplus of some 2,000,000 koku (10,000,000 bushels). The authorities appear to be at a loss how to handle the situation, seeing the recent measures were unsuccessful.

VESSELS ADMITTED TO AMERICAN REGISTRY.

During the period from October 2 to October 23, 1915, there were admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, 2 vessels, freight steamers, of 3,304 gross tons, as follows: *Yucatan*, formerly Mexican *Yucatan*, 751 gross tons, J. W. Jolly, owner, home port, Philadelphia, Pa.; *Hocking*, formerly Danish *Gronland*, 2,553 gross tons, American Transatlantic Co., owner, home port, New York, N. Y. The total admitted for the period from July 1 to October 23, 1915, was 19 vessels, of 49,082 gross tons.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The imports and exports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended October 16, 1915, follow:

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Ore, matte, and regulus (copper contents).		Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.	
	Pounds.		Pounds.	
England			467,900	\$79,543
Canada	185,597	\$33,994	66,370	4,815
Mexico			1,749	143
Cuba	906,461	109,519		
Chile	883,791	116,522		
Peru	68,463	11,696	228,807	33,611
Venezuela	106,490	18,068		
Chosen	4,050	324		
Japan			974,275	155,376
Total	2,154,762	280,142	1,739,101	263,438

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

Countries.		Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.	Countries.		Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.
		Pounds.			Pounds.
France	11,603,696	\$2,335,907	Panama	6,774	\$1,843
Italy	391,419	76,230	Salvador	1,900	436
Netherlands	39,670	8,449	Mexico	400	32
Norway	38,027	7,263	Cuba	5,391	1,088
Portugal	140,588	26,393	Dominican Republic	1,070	237
Russia	4,625,532	849,148	Argentina	5,480	1,301
Spain	76,569	15,901	Brazil	48,474	14,339
Sweden	1,568,426	282,316	Colombia	424	94
Switzerland	74,063	13,262	Ecuador	1,150	296
England	6,460,069	1,178,875	Dutch Guiana	35,487	2,756
Scotland	224,118	43,751	British East Indies	2,479	712
British Honduras	1,047	223	Australia	3,461	941
Canada	244	65			
Central America	3,899	876	Total	26,350,789	4,860,809

COTTON GINNED, CONSUMED, AND ON HAND.

The United States Bureau of Census reports that the number of bales (counting round as half bales) of cotton ginned from the growth of 1915 prior to October 18, 1915, was 5,713,347, compared with 7,619,747 for 1914 and 6,973,518 for 1913. Round bales for 1915 amounted to 54,422, against 15,235 for 1914 and 49,080 for 1913. Sea island included 40,257 bales for 1915, 30,078 for 1914, and 31,139 for 1913.

Cotton consumed during the month of September, 1915, amounted to 498,219 bales. Cotton on hand in consuming establishments on September 30 was 1,089,614 bales and in public storage and at compresses 2,796,500 bales. The number of active consuming cotton spindles for the month was 31,295,104. Domestic cotton exported during September, 1915, was 502,031 running bales, and foreign cotton imported 26,197 equivalent 500-pound bales.

The figures for 1915 are subject to slight corrections.

BRITISH COTTON GROWING IN AFRICA.

[Manchester Guardian, Oct. 9.]

The one hundred and fortieth meeting of the Council of the British Cotton-growing Association was held in Manchester on October 5, 1915.

The cotton which is being grown on the Government experimental plot at the Moor Plantation, West Africa, is doing well this season, and it is expected that there will be sufficient seed either from the Georgia or Uplands varieties for distribution next season to plant about 500 acres. It was agreed that it would be advisable for the association to offer a higher price for the cotton produced from this seed, even if it left the association with a loss, as it is important that the efforts of the Agricultural Department to improve the quality of Lagos cotton should be supported.

It has been decided to close down the association's operations in the Gold Coast and at Illushi, in the southern Province of Nigeria. At the same time it is considered advisable to keep open the ginnery at Labolabo for the benefit of those natives who are already committed to the cultivation of cotton, and it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in making arrangements to this effect.

The West Africa Committee has had a meeting with Maj. Armitage, the Chief Commissioner of the Northern Territories, who reported that cotton cultivation in the Northern Territories was a failure last year owing to the unfavorable climatic conditions, and he expressed the opinion that under better conditions the results would be more favorable. Outside of cotton growing, the only other industry in the Northern Territories of any note is cattle breeding, and, as quantities of cotton seed have been distributed to the local farmers for planting for the new crop, Maj. Armitage hopes that arrangements may yet be made for the operations to be continued, at any rate for another year, in order to give the farmers an opportunity of marketing their crop.

The purchases of cotton in Lagos to the end of September amounted to 5,974 bales, as compared with 13,486 bales for the same period of last year and 13,645 bales for 1913.

The purchases of cotton in northern Nigeria to the end of August amounted to 497 bales, as compared with 518 bales for the same period of last year.

Report from Nyasaland.

A report has been received from the Director of Agriculture stating that the crop grown by white planters in the Shire Highlands is above the average, and that some planters have particularly fine crops, which are now being harvested. The river crops are very late, and suffered from drought in February and early March, but late rains have improved conditions considerably.

The cotton exported from Nyasaland for the year ended March 31 last amounted to 6,620 bales, valued locally at \$350,816, showing an increased value over the preceding year of \$32,026.

As regards the native crop, the Mlanje and Upper Shire crops are being harvested, and it is expected that these two districts will produce 350 tons. The native crop is of superior quality, and a sample has recently been received and valued at 1d. (2 cents) "on" the price of middling American.

CONDITION OF NETHERLANDS CROPS.

[Vice Consul G. H. Krogh, Rotterdam, Sept. 30, supplementing report published Oct. 4.]

Since the publication of the previous crop report the weather has been very unfavorable for the various products. Grain, particularly wheat and oats, suffered considerably from rain during harvest time; the condition of the latter is, in fact, very bad considering the damage done by dryness and frosts in the early summer. The production of wheat was rather good, but its quality (weight) did not come up to general expectations.

Turnips also suffered from the unfavorable weather, as did onions in the Province of South Holland. The condition of the bean crop varies from fair to good, brown beans are satisfactory, peas medium to good. Fall cattle feed is generally considered favorable. Clover and grass are in excellent condition; on those lands where a second cut was made it was an excellent one. Potatoes for consumption promise a rather favorable crop. The growth on clay soil was generally better than on sandy soil, but nowhere is an abundant crop expected. Potatoes for factory use suffered much from night frosts during the month of June and have recovered but little since.

Wet weather caused much damage to the sugar beets, as dryness and sunshine, particularly during August, are essential for a good crop. Notwithstanding this, and the insufficiency of Chilean saltpeter, the sugar beets are in a comparatively favorable condition. It is reported that the leaves are turning yellow too early in the Provinces of South Holland and Zealand, which is attributed to the lack of nitrate. The crop of sugar beets is good in the Provinces of Friesland and Overijssel, rather good in Groningen and South Holland, and from rather good to good in the other Provinces.

NEW RADIO STATIONS OF UNITED STATES.

Additions to the list of radio stations of the United States as given by the Bureau of Navigation in its October list include 11 special land stations and 6 ship stations. Among the ship stations are the *Azaiea* and *Ellington*, owned by the Immigration Service of the United States Department of Labor. Others are: *Alicia*, De Forest system, 300 and 600 wave lengths, for general public use; no regular hours; operated and controlled by Alfred I. du Pont; *Fort Bragg*, 300 and 600, owned by Higgins Lumber Co.; *Mount Hope*, composite system, 300 and 600; for private use; owned by Providence, Fall River & Newport Steamboat Co.; *Silver Shell*, Marconi system, 300 and 600; operated and controlled by Marconi Co.

The special land stations, all of which maintain private service, with no regular hours except at the stations at Louisville, Ill., and Tiffin, Ohio, are: Auburn, Ala., wave lengths, 1,625 and 1,800, controlled by Alabama Polytechnic Institute; Davenport, Iowa, 300, William H. Kirwan; Denver, Colo., 200 and 425, Edward C. Stockman; Louisville, Ill., 200 and 425, Cecil Bridges; New Orleans, La., 300 and 600, Marconi Co.; New York, N. Y., 233, 300, and 600, Y. M. C. A. Telegraph School; Ridgway, Pa., 300 and 425, Pittsburgh Wireless Equipment Co.; Rockford, Ill., 200, Rockford School of Engineering; Tiffin, Ohio, 200 and 425, John J. Grossman; Washington, D. C., 200, 300, and 400, McKinley Manual Training School; Washington, D. C., 200, 400 and 1,800, National Radio School.

TRADE EXPANSION IN THE SOUTHERN REPUBLICS.

[Commercial Attaché Lincoln Hutchinson, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 19.]

The South American view of the North American interest in trade expansion in the southern republics was presented in a recent issue of a prominent Brazilian journal. The comments on the situation seem so pertinent that they are quoted below:

Among officials and among business men in the United States, the dominant purpose at the present time is to develop commercial relations with the countries of South America.

Perhaps it is because another such propitious occasion may not offer itself soon and because the situation of to-day will last even after the establishment of peace that the North Americans desire to improve the present occasion; for after the war the belligerent nations will not be able immediately to resume their former industrial and commercial activity.

The Government of the United States does not wish to lose this opportunity, and it has prepared a Pan American politico-commercial plan. This plan, which has been formulated by the Secretary of the Treasury, consists principally of a tariff agreement with the different countries of this hemisphere, which will assist both the United States and the other countries in facilitating commercial relations to the advantage of all. A part of the plan, also, is the greatest possible development of navigation between the different countries, with the purpose of lowering the freight rates and of maintaining regular communication between the different ports.

But while official initiative may be responsible for the realization of part of this program, the development of commercial relations largely depends upon the private parties interested in it, just as is the case with domestic commerce of any nation. Official action or aid can do much in favor of the proposal, but it alone can not produce the desired result; on the contrary, all will be lost if there is not added thereto the intelligent assistance of exporters, manufacturers, and merchants, who can not contest with advantage for a market unless they observe the custom of that market, which is to sell moderately priced goods on agreeable terms. Without the application of this method the North Americans, it is true, may be able to capture the market by force of present circumstances, but they will have to abandon it as soon as the warring countries re-establish themselves in commerce and the world returns to its former condition.

[A discussion of "American Trade Methods in Argentina," in which similar views are set forth at much greater length, was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 4, 1915.]

MARGARINE REPLACING BUTTER IN LEEDS.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, Oct. 1.]

The price of butter in Leeds has risen above all previous records. Current wholesale quotations on foreign butters are now approximately 45 per cent higher than in July, 1914, as the following comparative summary shows:

Kind of butter.	Price per 112 pounds.	
	July 25, 1914.	Sept. 25, 1915.
Danish.....	\$31.63-\$32.36	\$46.23-\$46.96
Swedish.....	31.27- 31.63	45.26- 45.75
Finnish.....	31.02- 31.27	44.29- 44.77
Siberian.....	25.06- 25.55	35.53- 36.99

Butter is being generally retailed in Leeds at 47 cents per pound and in consequence large numbers are turning to margarine at 20 to 24 cents per pound. Dealers report that for several years the use of margarine has been steadily increasing among the working classes, but only since the high prices of butter have ruled, because of the war, have the middle classes turned to this substitute.

CANADIAN OLD-AGE ANNUITIES.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 20.]

In 1908 the Canadian Government inaugurated a system of annuities which at first was under the management of the Department of Trade and Commerce, but is now a part of the Post Office. The object sought was to provide old-age pensions for Canadians on a voluntary instead of a compulsory basis. Under the system now in operation no one can begin to receive a Government annuity until 55 years of age, although the purchase of such annuity may begin at any time. [See Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Mar. 23, 1908, and Sept. 15 and Dec. 18, 1909.] The annuity is absolutely the property of the person for whose benefit it was bought. It can not be mortgaged, sold, traded, or in any other way endangered.

Every resident of Canada is free to contribute to and enjoy the advantages of the system. There is no exclusion on account of sex, no age limit, no medical qualifications as to health or strength. The annuitant pays what he can, when he can; but the officers in charge do all that their official duties will allow to insure the regular payment of premiums as agreed. If for any reason the annuitant has not been able at 55 years of age to pay the cost of the smallest annuity allowed, his money is not forfeited, but is returned to him with interest.

The calculations for this system are based on 4 per cent interest compounded annually, and no charge whatever for expenses or management, the salaries of officers and other outlays being voted by the Canadian Parliament. Every postmaster has been made an agent of the annuity system and is paid a small commission on the business done through his office. According to the latest report the Government has made 3,450 annuity contracts, amounting to \$700,000 a year.

RECLAMATION WORK IN HAWAII.

[A. H. Stephens, correspondent, Honolulu, Sept. 27.]

The Territory of Hawaii now has in hand reclamation works that will cost about \$300,000, with several other projects in contemplation. At Honolulu a strip of land half a mile wide, starting near the wharves and extending for about 3 miles along the shore, is being put in sanitary condition. Another project well under way, known as the Waiolama reclamation project, will improve the water front of Hilo, on the island of Hawaii. This tract has been condemned and notice served by the department of public works upon the property owners. Within a few weeks the contract will be let and active filling operations commenced.

Preliminary surveys are being made for the Waikiki reclamation project, and filling will soon begin. This parcel of land adjoins the famous Waikiki Beach, and its reclamation will open up a large area of desirable residence property. In all these filling operations a dredge pump is employed, which draws up sand and coral from the ocean bed and deposits it on the condemned land. By this system it is possible to make these fills at a total cost of 40 to 45 cents a cubic yard.

To start this work the Territorial Legislature appropriated \$300,000. Property owners are allowed five years in which to make payment of the costs assessed against them, and as fast as the money is returned it becomes available for new projects.

CHINA ACTIVE IN TRAINING OF FARMERS.

[Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, American Legation, Peking, Sept. 1.]

While much importance attaches to the fact that the Chinese Government has employed an American cotton-growing expert, H. H. Jobson, of College Station, Tex., on a three years' contract, this is only a portion of the work it has planned in agricultural lines. The Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce has recently undertaken a system of extension teaching for the farmers of the country, starting with the establishment of an extension school for the training of lecturers and demonstrators, who are to travel throughout the country introducing improved methods of farming. One of the agricultural experts of the ministry has been specially delegated to start such a school, which is already in the process of preparation.

The extension workers to be selected are to act in cooperation with the staffs of the agricultural experiment stations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce. This department of the Government received from the Ministry of Finance last spring more than \$100,000 for the purpose of starting such stations. They are grouped in four classes, devoted, respectively, to cotton, sugar, afforestation, and pasturage. There are now 3 cotton farms, 1 sugar plantation, 2 forestry farms, and 3 pasturage farms. The Government has a model ranch at Chu Chow, in North Anhui, directed by an American ranchman, and there have been excellent reports of the work that is being done there. The director has had under cultivation 200 acres of corn, oats, barley, millet, and other grains for the stock, and although the new cereals were nearly all destroyed by the locusts in April and May, there were prospects that he would be able to harvest practically enough to feed the stock. Forty acres of peach, plum, pear, and apricot trees have been planted and will bear fruit next year, while there are 10 acres of mulberry trees.

It is required that the appointees for extension work shall be over 25 years of age and shall be men of practical farming experience in the designated district. They will have the following duties: (1) To travel through the territory and give lectures; (2) to distribute selected seeds for the improvement of crops; (3) to demonstrate the use of improved implements; (4) to investigate the cause of natural calamities and of pests; and (5) to plan for the gradual improvement of the various phases of farming methods. These appointees are to serve as honorary commissioners of the Ministry, but official awards will be made after three years of faithful service.

SHIPS FROM NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA, TO AMERICAN PORTS.

[Consul Lucien N. Sullivan, Newcastle, Sept. 6.]

From July 23, 1915, to September 3, 1915, four steamships, averaging about 5,000 tons each, have cleared from this port for American ports on the Atlantic Coast by way of the Panama Canal.

The first three of these vessels carried zinc concentrates. Two were British steamers and bound for Galveston; one—the steamship *Arna*—was Norwegian and carried 7,753 tons of zinc concentrates consigned to Mobile, Ala. The last vessel to clear—the steamship *Canastota*, British—had no cargo from Newcastle, but took on 1,400 tons of bunker coal. This vessel will call at the New Caledonian Islands, where it will load 6,800 tons of chrome ore for New York.

INCREASING PRODUCTION OF RICE IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 24.]

The growing importance of the rice production of Brazil and the fact that the country is rapidly learning to support itself in this important foodstuff is shown by the gradual decrease through the years of Brazilian imports of rice. The more recent changes are indicated by the figures for 1913 and 1914, with the respective quantities and values for each of the countries from which Brazil imports rice. These figures, with the weights given in kilos of 2.2046 pounds each, are:

Countries of origin.	1913		1914	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Kilos.</i>		<i>Kilos.</i>	
Germany	753,679	\$76,183	202,880	\$17,479
United States	10,375	1,368	2,798	325
United Kingdom	247,783	23,825	21,234	2,132
Netherlands	123,185	12,668	235,162	17,661
India	5,538,901	539,066	4,506,963	352,333
Other countries	1,098,349	91,106	1,563,976	119,469
Total	7,777,361	744,116	6,585,033	519,309

Changes during a period of five years are indicated by the quantities imported annually. In kilos the amounts were: In 1910, 17,320,437; 1911, 16,532,262; 1912, 10,226,264; 1913, 7,777,361; 1914, 6,535,033.

Statistics for the Several Brazilian States.

Rice production in the State of São Paulo, the principal center of activity in this respect, was discussed in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 28, 1915. Recent statistics of the rice production of the several States of Brazil are not available. The latest, for 1910, in liters of 0.9081 quarts each, are: Para, 200,000; Maranhao, 971,000; Parahyba, 1,950,000; Ceara, 2,730,000; Espirito Santo, 24,000; Rio de Janeiro, 11,323,000; São Paulo, 62,555,000; St. Catharina, 1,820,000; Rio Grande do Sul, 2,925,000; Minas, 28,463,000.

Later returns when received will undoubtedly show large gains in the Brazilian production of rice, the domestic article gradually displacing the imported product. This follows in line with a movement noticeable in certain parts of the country to diversify crops and to make certain regions produce their own supplies of foodstuffs formerly imported from abroad.

[A list of local importers of rice may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67,212. The rice market of Bahia, Brazil, was described in COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 8, 1915.]

Unusual percentages of increase are shown by the Bureau of the Census in its preliminary statement of the 1915 census of manufactures for Anaconda, Mont., in which figures for 1914 are compared with those for 1909. The primary horsepower increased 198.4 per cent; wage earners, 158.8; wages, 112.7; capital, 91.2; materials, 65.6; value of products, 27.6; and value added by manufacture, 13.8 per cent. The capital invested increased from \$489,000 to \$935,000.

TASMANIA'S IMPORTS FROM AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Sept. 7.]

The decrease in imports into Tasmania for the year ended June 30, 1915, shows the ill effects that Tasmania has suffered on account of the war and drought. It is considered that the drought was responsible for the greater part of the loss, but this, fortunately, is now over, and normal trade conditions should soon return. The imports for the calendar year 1914 amounted to \$4,972,235, while for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, the value was only \$3,947,972. Tasmania's purchases of foreign goods, therefore, amounted to about \$1,000,000 more during the first six months of 1914 than during the corresponding period of this year. As Tasmania, in common with the rest of Australia, has found it necessary to purchase large quantities of grain and foodstuffs, it follows that the imports of manufactured goods have undergone a far greater decrease than the above figures would indicate.

Imports from United States Show Material Increase.

In spite of the heavy losses in imports, the value of imports from the United States has shown a very material increase, being \$708,631 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, as against \$576,782 for the calendar year 1914. This shows that the United States increased its sales by \$131,849 in the first six months of 1915 in comparison with the corresponding period of last year. This increase would have been much greater if shipping facilities were better, since large quantities of goods, which under normal circumstances would have arrived and been delivered during May and June, did not reach here until August.

Better Freight Service Needed—Influence of Exchange.

During the first few months of the war there was a strong tendency on the part of merchants to confine their purchases as far as possible to the United Kingdom, but this is now practically a thing of the past and it is evident that merchants are looking more and more to the United States to supply their wants. This tendency would become more marked if there were a better and more economical freight service. Under present conditions merchants often hesitate in making purchases from America, not only on account of heavy freight rates but because it is frequently uncertain whether goods will arrive within a reasonable time. As Hobart is a regular port of call for mail steamers from England, merchants can always count upon goods arriving here from that country in a short time after shipment. This advantage has always been enjoyed by English exporters, but it was not in ordinary times so important as at the present, when there is such a shortage of available freight ships.

In this connection it is well to mention the high cost of exchange on America. At the present rates it adds materially to the cost of American goods. It is to be hoped that this will soon be adjusted.

British picklers of vegetables and makers of sauces and jams have been handicapped for bottles and jars owing to their reliance on the Continent. British imports of bottles in 1913 totaled \$3,965,000, of which the United States supplied only \$15,000 worth.

USE OF VENEERS IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 1.]

A fairly large number of inquiries has reached the Rio de Janeiro office concerning the possibility of introducing veneers of American make in Brazil, and it may prove interesting to the trade in general to have the following notes placed on record, since they apply not only to Brazil but to most tropical and subtropical countries in the Western Hemisphere.

There are no veneer factories in the immediate district of this consulate general, though there are several large furniture factories, a number of them employing American machinery.

Veneered furniture (usually imported from abroad) is decidedly unpopular, because the humidity of the climate (which is excessive, especially during the summer months) produces swelling in most foreign woods and causes veneers to "raise."

There are no dry houses here. Usually the kiln-dried furniture of foreign countries falls far short of the local air-dried woods.

Foreign Furniture and Insect Pests—Veneers Little Used.

A very formidable objection to most foreign furniture—and the writer has heard this objection made particularly to American office furniture, which as regards design and practicability is admired by many—is that the "core" of most of the pieces imported is made either of softwood or of such inferior hardwoods as to be utterly unable to resist the attacks of the termite (wood ant) and other insect pests that abound here. It is for this reason that the local trade often copies models from American catalogues, making them in native hardwoods throughout, rather than take the chance of importing an original article that might not prove durable here. These statements apply, unfortunately, to some of the best American office furniture, which has occasionally been imported here.

A person who has canvassed the local furniture trade thoroughly says that there is but one factory that he has seen using veneers at all, and this was for the making of billiard tables. The so-called "straight work" on some of the tables was veneered in a wood imported from France under the name of érable (maple). It resembles our own bird's-eye maple, and is, it appears, not a French wood, but one imported from French colonies. The sheets, or veneers, come to this country in 2-foot widths and are cut to suit the manufacturer.

The city of São Paulo, next in importance to this as a furniture-manufacturing center, uses more of this veneer than Rio de Janeiro (perhaps because of the colder highland climate there), but only on panels or conspicuous parts, for effect. It is stated that the output of one 6-foot veneer cutter would more than supply a year's demand on the part of the furniture manufacturers of Brazil. It would seem that none of the thicker veneer stock, of from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, has been seen here; nor have any veneers been made successfully of Brazilian native woods.

Fine Furniture Made from Native Hardwoods.

There are many beautiful native hardwoods, such as rosewood, canela, imbuya, vinhatico, and the lighter and more easily worked peroba, that are used extensively here, the Brazilian having a de-

cided appreciation for handsome, solid furniture of hardwood, often heavily carved or turned. One of the largest American concerns here recently spent \$8,000 in furnishing the offices of its largest branch office in Brazil with railings, partitions, desks, bookcases, and other office furniture, all manufactured locally, copied from American catalogue models, and made of native imbuaya wood. The general effect is that of black walnut, with a very dark vein running through it.

It is unlikely that there will ever be a demand for foreign veneers in commercial quantities here. If there were, it is probable that the Brazilians would prefer to import from Europe, for a general belief exists here—fostered by former importations of cheap American oak and other furniture, with softwood cores, linings, drawers, etc.—that European furniture and woods generally are preferable for furniture to those from the United States, as being more resistant to humidity and insect pests.

SWEDISH FISHERY NOTES.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sept. 17.]

Iceland Herring and North Sea Mackerel.

The market price of fish in Sweden is always greatly influenced by the herring output of Iceland and the mackerel catch in the North Sea. According to late reports the result of the herring fishing in the waters of Iceland has been better than last year, while on the other hand the mackerel caught in the North Sea is only about one-fourth of the output of 1914. It is estimated that the total Icelandic catch of herring this season will amount to 400,000 barrels, or very much more than last year. The season is practically ended and most of the fishing vessels have left those waters. Thus far only about 7,000 barrels of mackerel have been caught off the shores of Sweden and Norway.

Swedish Industry Expanding.

In Sweden there is very little State ownership of and only mild laws governing the fisheries. The salt-water fish include the herring, cod, mackerel, flounder, lobster, and eel, and there are also important fresh-water varieties. The growth of the Swedish fisheries is seen in the exportation during 1913 of 400,000 quintals (metric quintal=220.46 pounds) of fresh fish, whereas in 1870 no exportation took place beyond a few small shipments of a special kind of fish.

PANAMA CANAL TRAFFIC IN AUGUST.

[Canal Record for Oct. 13.]

The number of ocean-going vessels passing through the Panama Canal during August was 161. Of these, 89 were westbound and 72 eastbound. The aggregate number exceeded the total for all preceding months except July.

The cargo carried through the Canal during August amounted to 575,337 tons—249,119 tons from the Atlantic to the Pacific and 326,218 tons from the Pacific to the Atlantic. The August movement brings the grand total of cargo since the opening of the Canal up to 6,250,598 tons.

DECREASE IN OUTPUT OF MICA IN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Aug. 31.]

From the report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for 1914, which has just been issued, it appears that 4 mica mines in the Nellore district in Madras were relinquished and 40 were suspended, and the output during the last five months of the year was only 700 hundredweight, as compared with 4,700 hundredweight in the first seven months. The demand from London for slab mica kept the prices of this grade fairly firm, but the market for splittings, especially for those below the first grade, was much reduced.

Mica Industry Suffers as Result of War.

As to the mica mines for all of India, the report says the total output was 38,189 hundredweight, as compared with 43,660 hundredweight in 1913, a decrease of 12.51 per cent and the first decrease since 1910. The condition of the trade was fairly good during the first half of the year, prices being slightly lower than in 1913, which was an exceptionally good year. The trade suffered severely from the beginning of the war, and the output fell away in consequence. A large proportion of the demand for this mineral has hitherto come from Germany for use in its electrical industries. Certain firms with German interests, which were large purchasers of mica, have, it is stated, closed down. The export of mica to other countries in Europe was practically cut off, and the industry generally was much hampered by the abnormally high rates for ocean freights and insurance, brought about by the war. There was considerable difficulty with regard to shipments to America—to which country considerable consignments are sent direct in normal times—and the American market itself was dull.

TRACK-SCALE TESTING EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZED.

Representatives of the United States Bureau of Standards have recently standardized the large weights for test car No. 2, at St. Johnsbury, Vt., which has been built this year. The adjustment was accomplished with very great precision, the probable error in the adjustment of the total 90,000 pounds of large weights being but one-tenth of a pound.

The weights of test car No. 1 were retested at the bureau to ascertain the change in weight that might have occurred during the past two years of service. This test disclosed the fact that the loss on the total 90,000 pounds of weights was but 1.2 pounds, an average of one-tenth pound on each of the 12 weights. The weights are now having machine work done on them in order to provide a convenient method of sealing them.

Substantial increases in the 1915 census of manufactures for the city of Joplin, Mo., are shown by the Bureau of the Census in a preliminary statement comparing the figures for 1914 with those for 1909. The capital invested gained 35 per cent. Other items of increase are: Value of product, 43.9 per cent; salaries, 40.8; wage earners, 39.3; number of establishments, 29.9; proprietors and firm members, 26; wages, 25.1; primary horsepower, 21.7; and salaried employees, 17.2 per cent.

GREEK MARKET FOR AMERICAN SUGAR.

[Consul Arthur B. Cooke, Patras, Sept. 21.]

All sugar consumed in the Patras district is imported, the source of supply having in the past been Austria. The amount of sugar annually imported into the district through its several ports of entry is, according to official statistics, about 8,000,000 pounds.

During the first months of 1915 heavy supplies of sugar were brought into this district. For many months, however, the import trade has been cut off, and a shortage of sugar on domestic markets seems imminent. Local import merchants are already making inquiry at the Patras consulate with a view to possible importations from the American market.

Grades of Sugar Demanded—Prevailing Prices.

Four grades of sugar are consumed by this market: (1) Domino sugar (small squares), imported in cases of 50 kilos (110 pounds) each; (2) granulated sugar, imported in bags of 100 kilos (220 pounds) each; (3) loose lump sugar, imported in bags of 100 kilos each; (4) powdered sugar, imported in small quantities chiefly for confectioners. The consumption is fairly equally divided between the first three grades. The granulated sugar is of a common quality. The loose sugar consists of irregular hard lumps of white sugar, the sugar having apparently been cast into large cones and afterwards broken up.

The police authorities fix the wholesale and retail prices of most commodities on the domestic market. The price of sugar at present (for all grades indiscriminately) is: Wholesale, 1.25 drachmas per oke (\$0.0855 per pound); retail, 1.35 drachmas per oke (\$0.09234 per pound). These prices will apparently soon be increased, since the wholesale merchants have protested that they can not profitably sell at the price fixed.

Import Duty and Other Charges.

The import duty on sugar as fixed by the Greek tariff is 46 drachmas per 100 okes, or \$3.1464 per 100 pounds. To this must be added certain surcharges for city and harbor dues, which bring the charges up to a total of 50.96 drachmas per 100 okes, or \$3.48½ per 100 pounds.

Greece Looks to Importation from American Market.

Unless the foreign sugar markets now closed on account of hostilities are opened soon, the Greek importer will be compelled to turn to America for supplies.

Interested American firms are requested to send at once to the Patras consulate samples of their several grades of sugar, indicating clearly on each sample the price per 100 kilos (220 pounds). Prices should be given c. i. f. Patras, if possible, as the market is accustomed to this, and it is difficult for importers to secure at this end ocean freight rates out of New York. Rates could be secured by addressing National Steam Navigation Co. (Ltd.) of Greece, 45 Pearl Street, New York, which is the only line now operating regularly direct to Greece. Samples may be sent by parcel post at the rate of \$0.12 per pound, packages being limited to 11 pounds each. The samples should be clearly marked as such.

The advisability of having samples of American sugars at the Patras consulate is emphasized, since American sugars are not known here, and importers desire always to see samples first, where this is possible.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

- Glues and gums*, No. 18932.—A business man in Scotland has informed an American consular officer that he desires to represent American manufacturers of glues and gum.
- Fruits, flour, etc.*, No. 18933.—The commercial agent in charge of the Bureau's branch office in San Francisco has received a letter from a firm in Norway which desires to communicate with American exporters of apples, canned and dried fruit, wheat flour, and similar products.
- Fountain pens*, No. 18934.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to receive quotations on cheap fountain pens. If possible, prices should be quoted c. l. f. British ports.
- Machinery*, No. 18935.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues, prices, etc., of the necessary machinery for the equipment of a factory capable of producing 50,000 tons of salt from sea water annually. References are given.
- Varnish*, No. 18936.—The Bureau has received a letter from a man in Italy who desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of varnish. References are given.
- Hosiery*, No. 18937.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to receive quotations from American manufacturers of women's luster ankle, lisle, and cashmere hose, in case lots of from 40 to 100 dozen pairs. Quotations should be made c. l. f. British port and for spring delivery.
- Chewing gum*, No. 18938.—An American consular officer in New Zealand reports that a firm in his district desires to secure the sole agency in New Zealand for the sale of chewing gums. Samples, circulars, prices, etc., should be sent at once.
- Cotton yarns*, No. 18939.—A firm in England has informed an American consular officer that it desires to represent American spinners of cotton yarn.
- Cocoa beans, coffee, etc.*, No. 18940.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Denmark that a business man desires to represent American exporters of such products as cocoa beans, coffee, tea, etc.
- Pearls*, No. 18941.—A business man in Venezuela has written an American consular officer relative to an opportunity to purchase small quantities of pearls at greatly reduced prices. He offers to act as agent for prospective purchasers. Correspondence may be in English.
- Gold leaf*, No. 18942.—An American consular officer in England transmits the name of a dealer who desires to represent American manufacturers of gold leaf. The man states that he can place orders at once for large quantities of gold leaf for cash, and desires to receive samples with prices, etc. Names of other dealers are submitted.
- Metallurgical journals*, No. 18943.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a commercial organization in that country desires to receive sample copies of metallurgical journals.
- Hats*, No. 18944.—A business man in Denmark has informed an American consular officer that he desires to purchase American straw and felt hats for women; also other articles used in the millinery trade. Correspondence may be in English.
- Paper, linen goods, etc.*, No. 18945.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a man in that country desires to represent American manufacturers or exporters of printing paper and linen goods and thread. References are given.
- Overshoes*, No. 18946.—A commission agent in Spain has informed an American consular officer that he desires to receive samples, catalogues, price lists, etc., of American rubber overshoes. Correspondence, etc., should be in Spanish. Commissions and freight rates should be specified.

Bottles, No. 18047.—An American consular officer in England states that a firm in that country desires to receive quotations on bottles suitable for containing flavoring extracts, castor oil, etc., in sizes of from 1½ to 6 drams. Delivery is desired in lots of 1,000 gross. Best cash discount should be specified.

Trunk hardware, No. 18048.—A firm in Brazil has informed an American consular officer that it desires to receive catalogues, price-lists, etc., of locks and hardware for trunks and travelers' bags.

Sewing machines, No. 18049.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in the Canary Islands that a firm desires to represent a well-known make of American sewing machines.

Earth for bleaching vegetable oils, No. 18050.—A manufacturer of vegetable oils in Spain has informed an American consular officer that he desires to establish commercial relation with American shippers of earth used for bleaching crude vegetable oils. Correspondence may be in French or in Spanish.

Automobiles, etc., No. 18051.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that an engineer in that country desires to represent American manufacturers of electric vehicles, storage batteries, and supplies for generating and utilizing electrical power (not light).

Chemicals, No. 18052.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in that country desires to receive full information relative to chemicals.

Asphalt, No. 18053.—An American consular officer in Austria states that a commercial organization in that country desires the names and addresses of American exporters of asphalt used in making varnish.

Machinery, No. 18054.—A representative of one of the South American Republics reports that a business man in his country desires to receive descriptive circulars, prices, etc., of machines for the extraction of oil from castor beans.

Machinery, No. 18055.—An American consular officer in Cuba reports that a firm desires to purchase machinery to be used in a plant for the manufacture of citric acid. Further details may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

Hides, No. 18056.—The commercial agent in charge of the Bureau's branch office in Chicago reports that a foreign representative in that city desires to dispose of about 10,000 first-class dry hides. Sixty per cent are winter hides and the remainder summer hides. They average about 21 pounds in weight. It is explained that shipments in small lots can be made almost immediately. If desired, prices will be quoted to include freight prepaid from point of shipment in South America to New York.

Paper napkins, No. 18057.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to receive prices of paper napkins with Japanese figures or designs. If possible, prices should be quoted c. l. f. British ports.

Chemicals, No. 18058.—The Bureau has received a letter from an American firm in China expressing its desire to receive from American manufacturers and exporters of chemicals printed matter stating the properties and uses of certain chemicals. The firm also desires to receive information regarding extracts used in tanning, such as quebracho, gambier, and cutch; and particulars and different formulas relative to match making. The request is prompted by a desire to satisfy a growing demand in China for American chemicals. A list of the chemicals may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. —.)

Machinery, No. 18059.—The Bureau has been informed by an American consular officer in Brazil that a man desires to receive catalogues, prices, etc., of machinery, etc., for the complete installation of a rice plant; also all kinds of agricultural machinery, implements, etc. The consul desires to receive duplicates of the catalogues for the use of his office.

HALF-YEAR'S TRADE OF RUSSIA.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Sept. 16.]

According to figures published by the Ministry of Finance, for Russia's exports across the European frontier during the first six months of 1915 amounted to 94,984,000 rubles (\$48,917,000 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble), while the value of the total imports was 181,243,000 rubles (\$93,340,000). This shows that the value of the exports during this period decreased by 582,600,000 rubles (\$300,039,000), or 86 per cent, from that of the corresponding period of 1914, while the value of the imports decreased by 528,871,000 rubles (\$272,369,000), or 74.5 per cent.

The trade with Finland experienced a considerable development, the exports to this country having increased by 33,833,000 rubles (\$17,424,000). An increase is noted in all items of the export trade.

The quantity of grain exported during the first six months of 1915 amounted to only 4 per cent of the total and to 8 per cent of the value of the exports of the corresponding period in 1914; the bulk of this grain was exported to Finland. An increase is observed in the exports of wheat flour, rye flour, potato flour, starch, fruit and berries, pork, and red caviar. The countries to which the goods were exported were England, France, Roumania, Sweden, Serbia, Norway, Denmark, Italy, the United States, Bulgaria, Greece, and Finland, a considerable increase of exports being noted in the cases of Finland and Serbia.

A considerable increase is noted in the imports from Sweden, Japan, Bulgaria, and Finland, while imports from all the remaining countries decreased. The greatest value was represented by the imports from England (\$30,622,000) and from Finland (\$17,827,000).

INCREASE IN TELEPHONE RATES AT NOTTINGHAM.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, Oct. 4.]

An increase in the telephone rates at Nottingham went into effect on October 2. In some instances the charges are now double what they were before the increase became effective. Local calls, which have hitherto been 2 cents, are now 4 cents. Junction calls to suburban points within a radius of 10 miles have increased from 4 cents to 6 cents.

On trunk calls the old rates have been increased 33½ per cent, the cost of a 3-minute conversation over a distance of 25 miles now being 8 cents; 50 miles, 16 cents; 75 miles, 24 cents; and 100 miles, 32 cents. A reduction of 50 per cent is allowed on trunk calls between the hours of 7 p. m. and 7 a. m. where the ordinary charge is 1 shilling (24 cents) or more.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 252 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 27 1915

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FRENCH EMBARGO ON KID SKINS.

[Telegram from American consulate general, Paris, Oct. 25, 1915.]

Permission for the exportation of kid skins, raw and prepared, from France to allied countries and to the United States has been revoked by an order dated October 23, 1915. [Skins of all kinds were placed under embargo at the beginning of the war, but their shipment to the above destinations had been allowed since April 16, 1915.]

SHIPMENTS FROM RUSSIA TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Cablegram from Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Oct. 24.]

Export goods not required for military purposes are now proceeding on consignment to the Secretary of Commerce. American buyers or agents must arrange to give guarantee bonds and otherwise conform to the regulations. Permits are being granted thus far without awaiting information whether bonds are filed in New York, but shipments are allowed only on allied vessels via Archangel or Vladivostok. I have suggested that American ships now obliged to return from Russia empty be allowed to convey exports to the United States the same as allied ships. Committee discussion of this point is promised for Wednesday (Oct. 27). Caviar exports are now allowed by any route without applying for permits.

CONSIGNMENT TO NETHERLANDS OVERSEA TRUST.

[Telegram from American Consulate General, London.]

Exports from the United States to Holland should be consigned to the Netherlands Oversea Trust, as heretofore. (See Foreign Tariff Notes No. 17, p. 140.) It is understood that the requirement that goods from foreign countries be consigned to the trust is not obligatory under the terms of the British order in council, but is highly advisable, as failure to consign in this way creates presumptions on the part of the British officials involving detention and possible

seizure. The British Foreign Office, under date of April 27, 1915, stated as follows: "While His Majesty's Government do not require that cargoes be consigned to the trust, they do accept consignments in that form as proof that cargo is intended for bona fide consumption in Holland. This practice has greatly facilitated and expedited the release of vessels bound for British ports when brought in for examination."

SOUTH AFRICAN OSTRICH FEATHER MARKET.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Sept. 9.]

On the public market for the week ending September 4 ostrich-feather prices in general were at least 10 per cent higher than for the preceding week. This week, ending September 11, is shown a further 10 to 12 per cent increase and a decidedly firm market.

From inquiries made here it appears that the increased demand is caused by London purchases or inquiries. This demand appears to have been created by American purchases. At least it is so credited by the local market buyers. With the existing advantages for purchasing direct through representatives on the market here it is difficult to explain why American purchasers should continue to pay the additional commission and expenses incidental to purchases through London dealers.

A comparatively large quantity of feathers was disposed of on the market this week, the total amount being 10,600 pounds, valued at approximately \$47,000.

Some lots of Prime Whites sold valued from \$21.90 to \$37 per pound. Feninas were sold from \$15.80 to \$19.45. These naturally were very good grade feathers. Ordinary average lots and ordinary wings are not in good demand, and Blacks, Drabs, and Tails have improved very little in price.

JAPANESE REDEEMING FOREIGN LOANS.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, Sept. 10, forwarded by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama.]

In view of the prevailing slackness of money in Japan, while the money market in London is maintained firm, it is reported that the Kawasaki Dockyard, Oji Paper Mill, and Kanegafuchi Spinning Companies, the Naniwa and Fifteenth Banks, and several other companies have decided to redeem their existing foreign loans either in part or wholly by raising corresponding loans at home. The Asahi (Osaka) says that these foreign loans are estimated at between \$7,470,000 and \$9,960,000, and their conversion into domestic loans will have a considerable effect on the money market.

The radio station of the Signal Corps of the Army at Nome, Alaska, now maintains continuous service, and the Signal Corps station at Fort Worden, Wash., is now open to general public service. The Signal Corps station at Fort St. Michael, Alaska, has been discontinued as an examination point where operators may secure licenses, the Bureau of Navigation announces.

TRADE AT CERTAIN CUSTOMS DISTRICTS.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending October 23, 1915, at 13 principal customs districts of the United States were:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$51,553	\$3,008	\$1,390,257
Massachusetts (Boston).....	2,254,454	209,705	2,701,902
New York.....	15,481,594	2,970,286	67,537,135
Philadelphia.....	958,853	159,035	2,508,887
Maryland (Baltimore).....	279,565	17,247	2,392,801
Virginia (Norfolk).....	155,472	36,851	1,459,339
New Orleans.....	1,260,585	10,457	3,694,598
Galveston.....	223,455	1,389	6,560,868
San Francisco.....	1,122,017	53,320	2,592,935
Washington (Seattle).....	3,853,015	14,814	2,799,502
Buffalo.....	1,189,921	60,597	1,628,017
Chicago.....	685,776	113,461	129,639
Michigan (Detroit).....	651,354	49,083	3,380,935
Total.....	28,167,614	3,699,263	98,777,016

The above figures show a favorable balance on merchandise transactions for the week ending October 23 in the 13 customs districts of \$70,609,402. The 13 districts cited handled about 91 per cent of the import and export business of the country, based on the transactions in July, 1915.

Cotton exported during the week ending October 23 amounted to 167,516 bales, making the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 1,125,661 bales.

OUTFLOW OF GOLD AND SILVER FROM YOKOHAMA.

[Extract from Japan Gazette, Sept. 17, forwarded by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Sept. 20.]

The outflow of gold and silver from Yokohama during the first eight months of this year amounted to \$15,998,250 and \$138,444, respectively. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, there was an increase of \$14,937,610 in gold and \$30,378 in silver. The greater portion of the specie this year was shipped to the United States.

The monthly outflow of gold from Yokohama during the past eight months was: January, \$747,000; February, \$1,145,400; March, \$2,651,850; April, \$2,763,900; May, \$2,490,000; June, \$1,245,000; July, \$2,863,500; August, \$2,739,000.

ORIENTAL CAMPHOR MARKET DEPRESSED.

[Japan Chronicle, Sept. 10.]

The Government has announced that from October 1 the price of crude camphor placed on the market by the Monopoly Bureau will be increased by \$0.747 to \$28.386 per 100 pounds. On the other hand, the market for refined camphor remains depressed. There are no buyers of slab camphor even at \$23.157 per 100 pounds. Though some orders are arriving from the United States, this is not sufficient to revive the market to any appreciable degree. In these circumstances, camphor refiners will be put to considerable difficulties.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he received in stock during the week ended October 23 the following new United States Government publications of a business character, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Some Economic Aspects of War, a lecture delivered before the Army War College at Washington, D. C., April 11, 1913, by Henry C. Emery, Professor of Economics at Yale University, reprint.—A lecture presenting some of the economic arguments in favor of a strong military organization and treating somewhat on the subject of "Preparedness." Price, 5c.

Testing of Thermometers, Standards Bureau Circular No. 8, reprint.—Covering methods of testing thermometers, types of thermometers, and general inspection. Price, 10c.

Fusible Tin Boiler Plugs.—An investigation of Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 53.—A technical work covering design, construction, types, testing, etc. Price, 20c.

Resistance of Radiotelegraphic Antennas.—Note on the Standards Bureau Scientific Paper 257.—A technical discussion on the resistance, with formulas and charts. Price, 5c.

Flow of Heat through Furnace Walls, Mines Bureau Bulletin 8, reprint.—Covers construction, position, and use of furnaces for heating purposes, etc. Price, 5c.

Heat Transmission through Boiler Tubes, Mines Technical Paper 114.—A study of the transmission of heat into boiler water, with a definition of heating plate and surfaces, etc. Price, 10c.

Navigation Laws of the United States, 1915.—Embracing Vessels, Measurement, Documents, Officers, Seamen, Inspection, Passengers, Tonnage, etc. Price, \$1, cloth.

Cultivation of Peppermint and Spearmint, Farmers' Bulletin 694.—An addition to the works on medicinal plants, embracing description of the plants, cultural requirements, yield, cost and prices. Price, 5c.

School System of Ontario, with special reference to Rural Schools, Education Bureau Bulletin 32, 1915.—Covers general system of rural life conditions in Ontario and description of the Rural School system. Price, 15c.

Public Schools.—Statistical Study of Southern Appalachian Mountains, Education Bureau Bulletin 11, 1915.—Covers general characteristics, illiteracy, teachers, school expenditures, etc. Price, 20c.

Training of Elementary School Teachers in Mathematics in countries represented in the International Commission on the Teaching of Mathematics, Education Bureau Bulletin 39, 1915. Price, 10c.

Foreign Credits, a study of the foreign credit problem with a review of European methods of financing export shipments, Special Agents Series No. 62, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Covers the German methods of financing foreign shipments, English banks, and the financing of exports through London, England, French efforts and improved foreign credit facilities with aspect of the problem in America, etc. Price, 30c.

SWEDEN'S LARGEST PAPER MILL COMPLETED.

[Chargé d'Affaires Jefferson Caffery, American Legation, Stockholm, Sept. 16.]

The largest paper mill in Sweden, considered to be one of the world's foremost in point of technical perfection, has just been finished in the town of Hallsta. The situation is favorable because of the good harbor, easy communication with Stockholm, and possibilities of procuring cheap power. Dwellings will be erected for the employees. A concrete quay 310 meters (1,017 feet) long has been constructed, the water being deep enough for large vessels. The factory has machinery of the most modern character.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY COUNTRIES.

Details showing the value of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during August and the eight months ended with August, 1915, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, as follows:

	Month of August—		8 months ended with August—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	\$50,620,866	\$38,142,368	\$565,147,023	\$351,389,547
North America.....	39,217,253	46,104,723	309,480,732	354,397,501
South America.....	15,095,782	22,280,972	157,445,040	199,449,175
Asia.....	20,629,273	31,438,884	190,907,276	184,017,968
Oceanica.....	3,514,573	2,440,359	32,327,846	38,662,981
Africa.....	690,143	1,306,896	15,050,346	22,941,588
Total.....	129,767,699	141,804,202	1,270,361,263	1,150,858,760
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....	880,506	113,061	12,802,157	4,540,168
Belgium.....	2,329,145	76,368	28,184,093	1,771,434
France.....	6,902,603	7,538,826	77,309,772	46,994,257
Germany.....	9,400,043	725,244	119,887,998	36,819,943
Italy.....	3,445,825	2,994,413	36,987,465	34,496,134
Netherlands.....	3,446,081	1,831,813	24,418,125	17,271,961
Norway.....	1,071,991	659,771	6,714,529	4,617,563
Russia in Europe.....	740,766	440,124	12,096,202	912,373
Sweden.....	614,322	1,158,911	7,240,598	7,504,829
United Kingdom.....	17,872,280	18,635,932	194,708,846	161,737,848
Canada.....	15,550,650	16,853,723	105,590,085	101,360,082
Mexico.....	6,154,189	8,638,928	61,511,138	58,846,452
Cuba.....	14,524,219	17,411,854	111,633,062	156,175,825
Argentina.....	4,173,415	6,214,692	40,751,072	61,253,369
Brazil.....	5,094,398	5,998,404	62,633,412	66,657,308
China.....	2,482,149	4,615,138	25,465,870	32,320,521
India, British.....	4,403,791	7,358,316	52,794,013	42,735,263
Japan.....	10,068,124	10,063,178	68,737,053	62,752,966
Australia.....	751,888	978,611	14,270,080	21,996,923
EXPORTS TO—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	48,875,232	172,495,744	783,921,580	1,634,693,475
North America.....	47,670,215	52,072,286	333,212,508	335,937,399
South America.....	5,312,457	13,450,247	65,403,666	86,595,898
Asia.....	3,789,548	10,268,041	61,810,908	90,242,210
Oceania.....	3,306,885	9,269,451	49,930,201	62,005,215
Africa.....	1,413,157	3,469,181	17,064,793	22,333,868
Total.....	110,367,494	261,024,950	1,311,349,656	2,231,908,065
Principal countries—				
Austria-Hungary.....	.....	6,698	12,798,495	43,334
Belgium.....	432,527	1,490,829	32,696,395	14,057,335
France.....	7,420,800	28,884,743	75,607,804	233,408,123
Germany.....	68,737	38,743	156,038,029	11,688,510
Italy.....	1,169,326	15,511,876	39,296,253	150,131,448
Netherlands.....	2,524,488	6,744,829	69,672,403	108,732,267
Norway.....	1,077,259	1,618,414	5,700,859	27,840,068
Russia in Europe.....	76,681	9,723,520	16,974,084	58,650,085
Sweden.....	312,723	4,258,322	7,985,212	61,703,589
United Kingdom.....	32,951,250	93,583,342	331,539,577	754,090,545
Canada.....	33,494,209	34,769,904	219,988,097	209,192,903
Mexico.....	2,520,130	3,598,577	22,037,281	25,189,017
Cuba.....	6,160,892	8,110,947	42,965,089	54,445,981
Argentina.....	971,129	4,573,039	19,648,581	31,149,868
Brazil.....	1,604,207	4,055,434	15,973,222	21,077,493
China.....	603,969	1,838,732	15,945,153	13,642,517
India, British.....	450,353	1,091,051	6,403,459	9,679,438
Japan.....	1,694,620	3,088,081	23,825,545	28,677,807
Australia.....	1,825,453	5,285,223	28,258,622	34,190,998

JAPANESE LINE TO BUY MORE STEAMSHIPS.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Japan Sept. 24.]

The president of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, which recently purchased the Pacific Mail steamship *Persia*, announces that his company has entered into negotiations for the purchase of two other Pacific Mail steamships of 10,000 tons each, now under construction in San Francisco. It is intended to put these ships on the Pacific with the others of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha fleet.

The company announces that its bookings for the next five or six steamers out of San Francisco are already fully taken, and that it will do everything possible to increase accommodations to cope with the traffic, especially for the coronation. At present the demand exceeds the accommodations.

The negotiations for the amalgamation of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have been dropped, according to the secretary of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, though he acknowledges that an amalgamation of all three Japanese companies—the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and the Toyo Kisen Kaisha—would be of mutual advantage.

[Extract from Japan Advertiser, Sept. 23.]

Joint Schedule Arranged by Two Lines.

A joint schedule for liners running between San Francisco, Yokohama, and Hongkong is now being arranged by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha. It is now known that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has decided to put two of its vessels, the *Panama Maru* and the *Seattle Maru*, on the San Francisco run, while two other ships will be added to its Tacoma and Seattle line—the *Todzan Maru* and the *Keishin Maru*.

The schedule agreement between the two companies will name the dates for the sailings of five Toyo Kisen Kaisha ships, the *Shinyo Maru*, the *Tenyo Maru*, the *Chiyo Maru*, the *Nippon Maru*, and the *Persia*. Arrangements will be made later for the new liners that the T. K. K. expects to place on the San Francisco run in the near future.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha ships on the new line will make Honolulu a port of call both ways. The O. S. K. plans at first to have one ship leave Yokohama for San Francisco every month, and more ships may be added to the line later. Running from San Francisco to Japan, their cargoes will consist largely of raw cotton.

On the O. S. K.'s Tacoma and Seattle line there will be the *Canada Maru*, the *Tacoma Maru*, the two new liners the *Hawaii Maru* and *Manila Maru*, the *Todzan Maru*, which will leave Yokohama for Tacoma and Seattle about October 5, and the *Keishin Maru*, which will sail about October 15.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, Sept. 24.]

Japanese Shipping in Prosperous State.

The prosperous state of Japanese shipping may be seen in the recovery of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha from its former condition. Negotiations for amalgamation with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha having come to nothing, the company was nearly at the end of its tether. Owing to the prosperity brought to Japanese shipping by the war, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha will, if the present state of things continues, become a very profitable concern.

The bulk of the profits of the Toyo Kisen, it is stated, have been reaped on the San Francisco service, from which British, German, and other steamers were withdrawn in consequence of hostilities. In view of the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. from that service, a further improvement of the Toyo Kisen's position will be shown in the business returns for the next term. It is expected that the company will hold a practical monopoly of the San Francisco service as long as the war lasts.

The Asahi (Osaka) quotes Mr. Shiraishi, managing director of the Toyo Kisen, as saying that though the company has long suffered losses, it has made an unexpectedly good showing for the last term. The company's debentures and loans amounted to \$4,332,600 at the beginning of the last term, but decreased to \$3,635,400 by the end of the term. If things continue as they stand, it is hoped to redeem loans to the extent of about \$498,000 each term, so that the greater part of the indebtedness may be cleared off in a few years.

[Recent dispatches published in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, in regard to the subject of Japanese shipping on the Pacific, were in the issues of October 4, 5, 7, and 14.]

COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF MORTARS AND CONCRETES.

Contractors, engineers, and users of cement will be interested in a publication recently issued by the United States Bureau of Standards on the compressive strength of Portland cement mortars and concretes.

Concrete differs from most structural materials in that it is not manufactured at a mill or plant according to chemical formula under the observation of skilled specialists, subject to rigid inspection and test and such control as to produce a uniformly homogeneous product; nor is the process of manufacture completed in a few hours or days, as in the case of steel products. Furthermore, concrete is made from materials obtained from sources differing widely in characteristics which affect its quality. The proportions of the ingredients; the amount of water used in mixing; the thoroughness of mixing; the manner of placing; the atmospheric temperature and humidity; exposure to sun, rain, and wind; immersion in fresh water, sea water, or other natural solutions—all affect the quality of the concrete.

This paper contains the results of some 20,000 tests. It shows the general effect of variation in the methods of preparing the concrete and suggests the proper methods to follow in order to obtain the best quality.

The paper states that certain generally accepted methods of testing aggregates and proportioning mixtures are incorrect and suggests methods of selecting concrete aggregates, proportioning the mixture, mixing, placing, and curing. Copies of this publication, *Technologic Paper No. 58*, may be obtained by application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

A British Trade Exposition at Glasgow in 1916 is recommended by the Glasgow Municipality.

FIRST FORECAST OF INDIAN COTTON CROP.

[Consul General James A. Smith, Calcutta, Sept. 13.]

The first official forecast of India's cotton crop for the season 1915-16 has just been made public. It is based upon reports furnished by Provinces that comprise, on the average, about 76 per cent of the entire cotton area of India. It relates generally to sowings up to the end of July, no attempt being made at this stage to estimate the probable outturn. The returns show that an area of 11,847,000 acres has been sown this year as against 15,187,000 acres on the corresponding date last year, a falling off of 22 per cent. The decrease is most noticeable in Ajmer-Merwara (60 per cent), Rajputana (43 per cent), the Punjab (41 per cent), the United Provinces (38 per cent), Central India (22 per cent), Bombay and Burma (20 per cent each), Hyderabad and Bihar and Orissa (19 per cent each), the Central Provinces and Berar (11 per cent). Madras shows an increase of 74 per cent and Mysore of 73 per cent.

As presented in the Indian (Government) Trade Journal, the acreage under cotton at the date of the first forecast for the last three seasons was:

Provinces and States.	1915-16	1914-15	1913-14	Provinces and States.	1915-16	1914-15	1913-14
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Bombay (Deccan) ^a	1,429,000	1,794,000	1,639,000	Northwest frontier.....	54,000	58,000	57,000
Central Provinces and Berar.....	4,113,000	4,646,000	4,503,000	Ajmer-Merwara.....	8,000	20,000	32,000
Madras.....	106,000	61,000	109,000	Assam.....	32,000	32,000	35,000
Punjab.....	1,085,000	1,831,000	1,918,000	Hyderabad.....	2,296,000	2,834,000	2,820,000
United Provinces.....	1,050,000	1,699,000	1,573,000	Central India.....	1,060,000	1,367,000	1,328,000
Burma.....	232,000	291,000	235,000	Rajputana.....	210,000	366,000	388,000
Bihar and Orissa.....	67,000	83,000	84,000	Mysore.....	19,000	11,000	15,000
Bengal.....	86,000	90,000	85,000	Total.....	11,847,000	15,187,000	14,833,000

^a Including native States.

^b Revised figures. The figures given in the first forecast of 1914-15 (namely, 890,000 acres for Central India and 14,710,000 for grand total) excluded the Indore and Bundelkhand States in Central India, from which returns were not received in time.

The decrease in the area sown this year is attributed chiefly to low prices and to some extent to the late arrival of the monsoon in Northern, Western, and Central India. The present condition of the crop is reported to be generally from fair to good, except in the Punjab, where the crop has been affected by the absence of rain in June and July.

FORESTRY COMMISSION IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Sept. 27.]

The Venezuelan Government has just created a central Commission of Forestry and Water Supplies to fulfil the duties indicated by its name. The address of the body is "La Comision Central de Montes y Aguas, Ministerio de Fomento, Caracas." The officers are Dr. Elias Toro, botanist; Dr. R. Pino Pau, entomologist; Dr. A. P. Moro, agricultural chemist; Dr. German Stelling, forester. Other members are Dr. Alexandro Vargas, attorney; Dr. A. Carnivali M; Sr. Don Henrique Eraso; Dr. Samuel Mario Maldonado; and Gen. P. Guiseppi Monagas.

NEW WATERWORKS FOR LAGOS, NIGERIA.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Sept. 9.]

It has been officially announced that the Lagos waterworks, which were begun in October, 1910, may now be considered as nearly completed and are about ready to supply the town (of approximately 75,000 population) with an abundance of good, fresh water. The water is drawn from the Iju River. The pumping plant consists of two driving engines and three forcing engines; the former are coupled through helical gear to three throw-well pumps. The capacity of each set of pumps is 5,000 gallons per minute; one set will be ample to do the work.

The filters are eight in number, the area of each being 820 square yards; the depth of filtering sand is 2 feet 6 inches. The water is let onto the filters by floating arms at top water level, which is 4 feet above the sand. The filters are working most satisfactorily.

Mains and Distribution Pipes—Capacity and Cost.

From the service reservoir the water is conveyed to Lagos by a 28-inch, cast-iron main 71,872 feet in length. This main ends at Ebute Metta, and from there the main is 24 inches to the center of Lagos, making a total distance of 81,550 feet. The total length of the distribution pipes will be 28 miles. There will be 200 4-way street fountains and more than 350 fire hydrants. The head of water in the mains will average 169 feet.

The capacity of the scheme, which, as completed, can supply water to about 115,000 inhabitants, is about 2,250,000 gallons per day. The cost will be under £313,000 (\$1,523,058), representing a saving of about £26,000 (\$126,516) on the estimate. With an additional expenditure of about £25,000 (\$121,650), the capacity could be increased to 3,000,000 gallons daily.

CHEESE SHORTAGE IN AUSTRALIA.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Sept. 23.]

According to the returns of the census of food supplies in Australia, compiled by virtue of an order in council which has just been made public, 910,000 pounds of cheese were held in stock on July 31 last. It is estimated that from 30 to 40 per cent of the dairy cattle in the Commonwealth have been lost in consequence of the drought, and that with the limited milk supply an output of only 13,000,000 pounds of cheese can be expected for 1915. The annual consumption in Australia is somewhat in excess of 18,000,000 pounds.

Stocks of butter amounted to 854,000 pounds. The consumption of this article in 1913 was 123,000,000 pounds, the production being 199,000,000 pounds. On account of the loss of dairy cattle the production for 1915 will probably not exceed 130,000,000 pounds, so that while supplies are ample for home consumption very little butter will be available for export. In the fiscal year 1914-15 Australia exported domestic butter to the value of \$12,950,550.

[The scarcity of butter in Australia and the shipment of American butter thither during recent months was noted in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 25, 1915.]

NEW ZEALAND BUSINESS FOR FIRST HALF YEAR.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 13.]

Business conditions in New Zealand during the first six months of 1915 have been very satisfactory, with a good outlook. Trade balances exceeded those of any other like period in the history of the country, with large bank balances. There seems to be confidence in the future, and the Government has decided, notwithstanding the war, to go on as usual with internal improvements, having determined to place a local loan of \$9,733,000 at 4½ per cent. Crop prospects, because of the abundant rainfall, are above the average for this time of year, and the farmers are planning an increased seeding for the year.

Imports Show Marked Decrease.

The imports for the first six months of 1915 amounted to \$46,275,485 (including specie valued at \$2,854,538), against \$55,595,358 (including specie valued at \$2,433,323) for a like period in 1914, showing a decrease of \$9,319,873 for the period. The following table gives the value of monthly imports, compared with 1914:

Months.	1914	1915
January	\$12,662,969	\$8,463,729
February	9,208,377	6,668,468
March	9,891,908	9,302,768
April	7,528,694	7,076,416
May	7,541,473	7,201,909
June	8,763,939	7,562,206
Total	55,595,358	46,275,485

The table below gives the countries supplying the greater part of the above imports, showing clearly the trend of the business.

Imported from—	Six months ended June 30—		Imported from—	Six months ended June 30—	
	1914	1915		1914	1915
Australia	\$9,581,627	\$8,483,468	Japan	\$331,165	\$431,415
Belgium	360,578	5,500	Netherlands	342,037	168,103
Canada:			Philippine Islands	47,660	53,229
East coast	950,544	1,354,040	United Kingdom	29,922,410	22,932,855
West coast	254,693	597,324	United States:		
France	385,485	182,766	East coast	4,861,808	3,494,093
Germany	1,786,244	7,553	West coast	917,531	2,210,062

There was a decided increase from Canada, which is partly accounted for by American goods being forwarded through the Canadian ports of Montreal and Vancouver, the ports of sailing of two direct lines to New Zealand. The United States shows a marked gain on the west coast, with a corresponding loss on the east coast. There should have been a gain all round had business been pushed here thoroughly and as the market would warrant.

Comparative Value of Principal Articles.

The following table gives the comparative value of many of the more important items for the period under consideration. It merits careful study by interested manufacturers and exporters.

Articles.	Six months ended June 30—		Articles.	Six months ended June 30—	
	1914	1915		1914	1915
Agricultural machinery.....	\$414,562	\$179,817	India rubber goods, not in- cluding tires.....	\$112,153	\$95,631
Barbed wire.....	135,790	79,290	Kerosene.....	458,590	428,763
Bar, bolt, rod iron.....	488,431	321,145	Lead.....	157,280	96,250
Benzine.....	1,253,007	997,842	Leather.....	308,482	309,675
Bicycles (including motorcy- cles).....	151,548	107,661	Leather manufactures.....	203,670	136,719
Books, papers, music.....	586,252	465,193	Linen piece goods.....	96,473	89,938
Boots and shoes.....	907,169	798,797	Linseed oil.....	126,023	83,758
Candles.....	84,381	88,025	Manures.....	1,326,496	728,354
Canvas.....	279,074	222,663	Matches and vests.....	94,215	60,053
Carbide of calcium.....	107,253	98,449	Millinery.....	259,214	194,962
Carpet and oilcloth.....	443,328	334,255	Mining machinery.....	72,491	110,864
Carpet oil.....	64,418	58,237	Motor vehicles.....	2,150,467	1,530,206
Cement.....	62,145	19,310	Nails.....	143,280	120,747
China and earthenware.....	299,338	183,189	Paints, colors, varnish.....	463,412	326,469
Cigarettes.....	642,243	453,436	Paper, printing.....	530,765	582,038
Cigars and snuff.....	91,052	39,384	Paper, other.....	256,426	219,713
Coal.....	1,845,970	1,011,171	Pianos.....	246,629	162,195
Cordage and twine.....	202,217	168,867	Pig and scrap iron.....	126,884	103,209
Corn sacks, woolpacks.....	871,206	920,163	Pipes and fittings.....	661,275	470,600
Corrugated sheet iron.....	710,645	369,533	Railway and tramway plant.....	293,717	418,787
Cotton piece goods.....	1,920,159	1,960,041	Seeds, grass, clover.....	305,013	520,895
Dairy machinery.....	136,588	82,195	Sewing machines.....	111,725	81,426
Drapery, not otherwise enu- merated.....	641,297	439,576	Silk piece goods.....	297,353	379,139
Electric machinery.....	1,109,177	679,500	Spirits, wine, etc.....	1,206,016	1,037,440
Fencing wire.....	315,568	163,023	Stationery.....	292,462	218,160
Foodstuffs.....	2,873,320	3,017,712	Tea, coffee, etc.....	1,253,571	1,147,326
Furniture.....	125,599	73,134	Timber, hewn and sawn.....	1,058,941	697,476
Gas engines, etc.....	392,128	255,588	Tin, sheet and block.....	319,671	210,564
Glass and glassware.....	463,174	331,326	Tobacco.....	856,553	745,113
Greases.....	16,770	13,699	Tools.....	366,574	229,397
Hardware.....	941,303	549,267	Turpentine.....	31,428	29,471
Hats and caps.....	286,831	221,046	Wearing apparel.....	3,256,559	2,051,750
Hosiery.....	504,948	431,420	Woolen piece goods.....	1,044,399	749,168

Of the above items, wearing apparel was imported during June, 1915, to the value of \$21,291 against \$324,396 during June, 1914; plain fencing wire, \$28,751 against \$56,904; pig and scrap iron, \$9,437 against \$29,535; tinplate, \$23,768, against \$35,428; and chassis, \$182,829 against \$342,003.

Exports from New Zealand.

The exports for the first six months of 1915 show a slight increase over the like period of 1914, as shown by the following table:

Months.	1914	1915
January.....	\$13,965,959	\$14,609,676
February.....	16,205,954	19,471,903
March.....	18,489,357	20,495,318
April.....	15,287,594	13,774,404
May.....	13,716,843	9,242,710
June.....	8,674,551	8,884,764
Total.....	80,341,258	86,478,775

Heavy shipments of frozen meat are going forward during September that are expected to increase materially the favorable balance for 1915, with bright prospects for the future.

What American Interests Have Done.

American manufacturers and exporters have been securing an increased amount of New Zealand business, but they do not seem to be awake to the possibilities and present demands of this market. They have been letting the business men of this country go after the

supplies instead of bringing their goods here or coming after the business. A few active American salesmen, with samples, could do wonders toward increasing American shipments to this Dominion. During the past week three steamers arrived at Auckland from New York loaded with American goods, and two are now loading on the west coast of the United States and Canada for New Zealand, to say nothing of the regular steamers from that coast every two weeks.

What New Zealanders Expect.

The following extract from the Auckland Star, a leading daily of this city, in its report of the speech made by Prime Minister Massey during the budget debate in Parliament, indicates how the interests here view United States markets and how they propose to secure them. This points to a larger market for American goods in New Zealand:

Mr. Massey expressed the opinion that there would be a decrease in the purchasing power of past customers for our produce in the future—he spoke of the United Kingdom, but other markets were opening up. By the opening up of the Panama Canal there was presented to us the whole of the Atlantic portion of America as a market. He believed we should get full value for our outlay at the Panama Exhibition. The success of our exhibits had been phenomenal, and he was very strongly of opinion that our exhibits there should be followed up by increased efforts to promote trade. He was, in fact, going to ask the Government to send a live commercial man, one of the best they could find, to represent us in the eastern States of America, where, he believed, we should find a particularly good market. He believed in doing business with the people of our own blood, but, if we could not find a market among them, we could do the next best thing—we could go where the language is the same and where the population was mostly of the same stock as ourselves.

The Outlook—American Exporters Should Act Promptly.

There is a splendid opening here, and it behooves Americans to make the most of it. The large excess of exports over imports makes it easy for the New Zealand people to buy what is necessary. The decline in imports has not been due to a shortage of money, but to the disturbed source of supply. Orders have gone forward as a general thing to the regular English houses, only to be turned down for the present—often with a promise to fill them in the near future, if possible. The New Zealand merchant has waited until his warehouses and stores are depleted and now hardly knows where to turn. This situation calls for prompt action on the part of American exporters if they are to make the most of it.

OLIVE OIL USED FOR LIGHTING.

[Consul General W. Stanley Hollis, Beirut, Syria, Aug. 31.]

Green olives are just beginning to be offered for sale at the markets. The olives to be pressed for oil will be gathered during September, and the farmers wait for two or three rainfalls, which are necessary to insure the full ripening of the olives specially suited for oil. Prices of olive oil are still advancing, particularly because the people are using that oil for lighting in place of petroleum. As previously reported, the prospects of the new olive oil crop are very unfavorable.

Prices of olive oil are 16.30 piasters per oke (20.88 cents per pound) for first quality and 15.10 piasters per oke (19.04 cents per pound) for second quality. The piaster quoted is the market piaster, valued at \$0.035 in American currency.

GERMAN PROGRESS IN USE OF ANIMAL CHARCOAL.

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, Aug. 31.]

German chemists have been making progress in the use of animal charcoal for medical purposes. The property of animal charcoal in attracting mechanically to itself organic matter suspended in water as gases or coloring material has long been known. On this account it is used in technical practice for decoloring solutions, purifying drinking water, etc.

Lately it has been discovered by experiments on animals that different kinds of poisonous substances, such as morphia, strychnine, and carbolic acid, lose partly or entirely their effect when given with animal charcoal. Not only can directly administered poisons be neutralized in their effect upon the organism by animal charcoal, but also poisonous substances which arise in the intestinal canal, as in the case of cholera. The action of animal charcoal extends to the bacteria themselves, which it mechanically absorbs, destroying their destructive influence.

Promoted by Phosphates, Sulphates, and Nitrates.

The labors of the chemists Freundlich, Lichtwitz, Glassner, and Suida have established the fact that the absorbing quality of animal charcoal is promoted by the presence of the phosphates, sulphates, and nitrates of calcium, sodium, and potassium. The rapidity of the absorption increases with the temperature, so that the heat of the animal body aids the therapeutic effect of the animal charcoal.

The application of animal charcoal extends chiefly to cases where the poison is conveyed to the organism from the outside, and where it arises from bacteria in the intestinal canal in the natural course of living. Cholera is therefore the first disease to be considered. Then come typhus and dysentery only when it is the purpose to remove the injurious microbes from the system or to drive them out of the intestinal canal.

As naturally the coal becomes infected with the bacteria or with the poisons which it absorbs, such aperients as Glauber salts, Karlsbad salts, etc., should be used.

It also appears that animal charcoal is applicable in surgery, as it can stop suppuration which destroys the tissues.

ADVERTISING IN COLOMBIA.

[Commercial Agent E. C. Porter, New York, Oct. 18.]

La Union Comercial, a daily newspaper published at Cartagena, Colombia, has recently sent a representative, Mr. J. A. Gownder, to New York City for the purpose of increasing American advertising in its columns.

La Union Comercial believes that there is a favorable opportunity for developing American trade with Colombia and it believes that one of the important methods in establishing closer relations between the two countries will be through advertising. A plan has, therefore, been worked out by which American manufacturing firms can take advertising space in La Union Comercial and at the same time obtain exhibit space for samples to be placed in a hall in Cartagena under the direct supervision of the American consul, Mr. Hazel-tine. Small, well selected exhibits are advisable.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Safety razor parts, No. 18960.—The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Canada stating that it desires to have a number of holders for stropping safety razor blades manufactured. The firm wishes to receive the names and addresses of manufacturers who are in a position to make steel parts for such a strop.

Umbrella ribs, No. 18961.—An American consular officer in India has transmitted a report relative to an opportunity for the sale of umbrella ribs. A copy of his report may be had on application and samples of the ribs may be inspected at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 66907.)

Gauges, No. 18962.—A business man in Spain writes the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that he is in the market for cheap pressure gauges for carbonating machines. He desires a gauge ranging in pressure from 200 to 250 pounds, to sell for about \$1 each. Interested firms should send catalogues and lowest jobbers' prices at once.

Washboards, broom handles, etc., No. 18963.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in London reports that a firm in that country desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of pegs, washboards, broom handles, etc.

Drugs, cereals, etc., No. 18964.—One of the commercial agents of the bureau writes that a business man in this country desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of drugs, dry goods, cereals, etc., in the West Indies, Central America, and northern countries of South America. It is explained that the man has just returned from a successful selling campaign throughout these countries and desires to return with a complete line about January of 1916. He wishes to handle goods on a commission basis only. References are given.

Leather handbags, No. 18965.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to receive offers on handbags of black patent auto leather. A sample of the quality of the leather may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 67316.)

Necklaces, No. 18966.—A firm in Australia writes an American consular officer that it wishes to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers of bead necklaces known as flower beads. The firm prefers to communicate with dealers on the Pacific coast.

Coupons and tickets, No. 18967.—An American consular officer in Paraguay transmits the names and addresses of a number of firms in his district which are users of coupons and tickets.

General agency, No. 18968.—An American consular officer in Burma transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. He does not specify any particular line.

Enamel ware, No. 18969.—A business man in Australia informs an American consular officer that he wishes to communicate direct with manufacturers of enamel ware with a view to having manufactured in the United States a lidless kettle which he has recently patented.

Printing supplies, etc., No. 18970.—An American consular officer in India has received a letter from a commercial printing company requesting the names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters of metal for casting type, brass rulers, gold leaves for bookbinding, printing paper, etc.

Cotton, No. 18971.—A firm in Sweden informs an American consular officer that it desires to make new connections in the United States with a view to importing cotton direct. It is desired to make preliminary arrangements for shipments to begin at the termination of the European war.

Shells, No. 18972.—The bureau has been informed by a man in Honduras that he desires to communicate with American importers of shells used for the manufacture of pearl buttons, novelties, etc.

- Water pipes and accessories**, No. 18973.—An American consular officer in Central America reports that a Government desires to receive bids for water pipes and accessories. A copy of the consul's report containing specifications, etc., may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices.
- Railway supplies**, No. 18974.—Supplementing Confidential Circular No. 755, the American consular officer has transmitted specifications and detailed information relative to an opportunity for the sale of railway supplies to a Government in South Africa. Bids will be received until November 24, 1915. The specifications, etc., may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 67351.)
- Clinical thermometer tubes**, No. 18975.—A firm in the United States states that it is in the market for 2,000 gross of 4-inch clinical thermometer tubes with the mercury blown in.
- Confectionery, leather, wearing apparel, etc.**, No. 18976.—An American consular officer in China reports that a man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of confectionery, patent medicines and chemicals, stationery, photographic supplies, millinery, leather, underclothing, handkerchiefs, collars, and coffee. The man states that he pays cash against shipping documents through certain specific banks. Correspondence may be in English.
- Iron strapping**, No. 18977.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Spain that a business man in his district desires quotations on a 10-ton lot of malleable iron strapping, one-half inch wide, similar to the sample which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 67312.) He states that he needs about 20 tons annually.
- Rice, coffee, sugar, etc.**, No. 18978.—A business man in Greece has informed an American consular officer that he desires to establish commercial relations with American exporters of rice, coffee, sugar, pepper, and dried codfish. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Correspondence may be in English.
- Heaters**, No. 18979.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that an importer in his district desires to communicate with an American manufacturer of sheet-metal heaters similar to an illustration which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 67306.) Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Importations are to be made in lots of 100. Quotations are desired from manufacturers only.
- Thread**, No. 18980.—A firm in Greece has informed an American consular officer that it desires to purchase American spool sewing thread of all sizes, colors, and kinds. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination if possible. Correspondence may be in English.
- Electrical appliances**, No. 18981.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Australia that a business man in his district desires to secure the sole agency for American electrical appliances.
- Cloth**, No. 18982.—A firm in England has informed the Bureau that it desires to communicate with American manufacturers of striped matting cloth similar to the sample which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 71.)
- Stylos**, No. 18983.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to receive prices on cheap stylos. If possible, quotations should be made c. i. f. British ports.
- Electrical goods**, No. 18984.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in India that a man in his district wishes to be supplied with catalogues, price lists, etc., of electrical goods, with the intention of becoming the sole representative of an American firm.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 923 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

SPAIN'S TRADE WITH FRANCE DURING PRESENT YEAR.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Spain, Sept. 22.]

The press of Madrid comments this day on the falling off in Spain's exports to France. Between January 1 and August 1, 1915, Spain exported to France 363,840 hectoliters (9,611,600 gallons) of ordinary wine as against 1,510,822 hectoliters (39,910,700 gallons) during the corresponding period of 1914—a decrease of 30,299,100 gallons.

During the first seven months of 1915 Spain exported to France 4,075,500 kilos (4,500 short tons) of olive oil, as against 15,477,000 kilos (17,060 short tons) during the same period of 1914—a decrease of 12,560 short tons.

During July, 1915, Spain exported to France 3,441,800 kilos (3,793 short tons) of fruit, as against 14,010,800 kilos (15,443 short tons) during July, 1914—a decrease of 11,650 short tons.

In spite of these losses Spain has a favorable balance of trade in its dealings with France. During the first seven months of 1915 Spain's exports to France amounted to 299,436,000 francs, while the imports from that country were valued at 56,320,000 francs—a balance in favor of Spain to the extent of 243,116,000 francs. The franc is the equivalent in Spain of about 17.4 cents; in normal times it is the equivalent of about 19.3 cents.

BRAZILIAN IMMIGRATION STATISTICS.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 8.]

According to recently published official statistics immigrants entering Brazil during 1914 through the port of Rio de Janeiro numbered 33,913; through Santos, 47,570; through other ports (except Para, Pernambuco, and Bahia, which are not usually immigrant ports), 1,089; a total of 82,572, or 110,111 fewer than in 1913. Portuguese (27,935), Spaniards (18,945), and Italians (15,542) continue to be in the majority.

Many of the immigrants were "colonos," or tenant-farmers, as they are called, who come to work coffee plantations on some sort of profit-sharing basis. A favorite system in some portions of the Republic is to allot to such men a certain acreage of the planter's coffee to care for; in return for his labor he is permitted to raise vegetables, etc., between the rows of coffee, the planter pledging himself to buy this produce from the colon at prevailing market rates when the crops are ripe.

TO STANDARDIZE ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION.

The work of developing the proposed national electric safety code, which has been undertaken by the United States Bureau of Standards, has attracted much attention among electrical companies, State commissions, city officials, and numerous others interested in electrical construction and operation throughout the United States. Practically all these interests have given their cordial cooperation in the project, which aims at a standardization of these branches of electrical work.

The task of bringing the details of the code to the attention of the interests that would be affected by its general use and securing their approval is found to be very great and requires a large amount of time and effort.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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DAMAGED AMERICAN GRAIN EXPORTS.

A cablegram from the consul general at Genoa calls attention to the unsatisfactory condition in which certain shipments of American grain reached that Italian port. He reports:

Four steamer cargoes of wheat and one of oats arrived from Newport News. All in very bad condition, heated, musty; have taken samples. In the interest of American commerce shippers should use the greatest care in the storage of grain, being certain that same will stand shipment without heating.

In transmitting this message to the Secretary of Commerce the Secretary of State remarked:

As American products and merchandise have more and more in late years been reestablishing themselves in foreign markets, the idea has been growing that the terms "quality" and "American" were synonymous. The present international commercial conditions offer favorable opportunities for the continued extension of the overseas trade of America. It would, therefore, be unfortunate if practices were allowed to grow up in our ports and other centers, which were detrimental to the admittedly high reputation of American products.

While there may not now exist any means of control over outward-bound cargoes, and the conditions under which they are shipped, it is possible some method may be found that will discourage such conditions as are shown by the cable quoted above.

AMERICAN CAPITAL WANTED IN DUTCH GUIANA.

[Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, San Francisco, Oct. 26.]

Dr. H. W. van Ash Vanwijck, president of the Legislative Council and judge of the Supreme Court at Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, is scheduled to arrive in New Orleans about November 7; Washington, November 10; and New York, November 17. He desires to interest American capital in Government concessions and in developing mining, railroad, and agricultural industries in Dutch Guiana. His Washington address will be care of the Netherlands Legation.

FOREIGN COTTON SUPPLIES AND CONSUMPTION.

The following information on the condition of the cotton industry in the countries given was prepared from the best sources available. The figures represent the number of cotton spindles and the percentage of activity at the end of September, 1914 and 1915, mill consumption of cotton during the month, amount of cotton on hand, and the value of cotton goods on hand.

Country.	Month ended Sept. 30—	Cotton spindles.		Mill consumption of cotton (bales of 500 pounds).	Cotton on hand (bales of 500 pounds).	Cotton goods on hand (value, U. S. currency).
		Number.	Activity (per cent).			
Brazil	1914	13,000	100	20,000	18,000	\$2,550,000
	1915	13,000	110	22,000	19,500	2,805,000
Egypt	1914	19,080	35	.....	^a 140,607	.....
	1915	19,080	100	.....	^a 205,520	.....
France	1914	7,400,000	50	40,000	100,000	.....
	1915	7,400,000	^b 100	60,000	75,000	.....
Japan	1914	2,608,870	89	118,811	.....	.....
	1915	2,784,358	92	119,825	.....	.....
Russia ^c	1914	5,729,067	100	.....	308,600	.....
	1915	5,729,067	100	.....	259,300	.....
South Africa	1914	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,000,000
	1915	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,000,000
Spain	1914	2,085,432	52	17,094	31,500	.....
	1915	2,123,356	100	30,745	73,710	.....
China	1914	825,180	95	75,672	.....	.....
	1915	1,022,953	95	87,795	.....	.....

^a Available for export.

^b For Normandy; probably for all of France, 65 per cent.

^c For Moscow district.

JAPANESE GLASS FOR ENGLAND.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle of Sept. 21 by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

The paralysis of the glass industry in Belgium and Germany has led to an increased demand for Japanese glass. Most remarkable are the large orders arriving from England, where glass articles have scarcely ever been exported from Japan. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha is now receiving applications for space and freight to London for lamp chimneys, cups, bottles, and other glassware calculated at about 4,000 tons in all. These will be shipped between October and February next. Exports to India and Australia also continue to expand.

CONVENTION OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTS.

The thirty-second annual convention of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists is to be held at Washington, D. C., November 15-17. The arrangement of the program has been altered from that of recent years, the first day being given over to the reports of the referees on water, feeds and feeding stuffs, sugar, separation of nitrogenous substances, dairy products, and food adulteration. The second day is to be devoted largely to committee reports and the address of the president, and the third day to reports from the remaining committees and referees, including the sections of fertilizers and medicinal plants and drugs.

SOLVING THE POTASH PROBLEM.

Several new methods of increasing the supply of American potash have recently been brought to the attention of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. One of the most promising of these efforts to find a substitute for German fertilizers is a patent taken out a few weeks ago by a Canadian for a method of using the potash in ordinary feldspar.

The process is a simple one, consisting of heating the feldspar with limestone and iron oxide at a temperature of about 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which produces a partly fused mass that is easily decomposed by a weak acid. From this product the potash salts can readily be extracted for further purification. The inventor has been in consultation with Dr. Norton, the expert who has been looking after the potash and dyestuff situations for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and it seems very possible that a greatly simplified method of transforming feldspar into fertilizer will soon be available.

A practical try-out for another method of obtaining potash fertilizer will soon take place at a New Orleans distillery where molasses is used in large quantities. It is a fact that 106 tons of potash are wasted daily by the 25 or more distilleries in this country that subject molasses to processes of fermentation. The New Orleans company is planning to install the process of saving the potash in distillery waste recently brought to the attention of the public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. It should be possible to make fertilizer from this otherwise worthless material at a price that will meet competition even after the war is over.

BUREAU OF STANDARDS STUDIES SPECIMENS OF BRONZE.

The quality of metal castings is usually determined by measuring the properties of a test specimen cast from the same metal. The United States Bureau of Standards has completed an investigation of the various foundry operations that influence the properties of the test specimen, for one of the most generally used commercial alloys, known as Government bronze, having the composition 88 copper, 10 tin, and 2 zinc. The bureau studied the effects of temperature on casting, methods of gating, casting, molding, kind of sand, heat treatment, and the effect of similar factors upon the resulting mechanical properties.

A microscopic examination of the fractured test specimens showed that the most common source of weakness was the occurrence of oxides within the metal. Such oxides appear frequently as thin films throughout otherwise sound metal, producing a condition of brittleness and low ductility.

This investigation will be published as a Technologic Paper of the Bureau of Standards, and may be obtained by application to the bureau, at Washington, D. C.

American Ambassador Frederic C. Penfield reports from Vienna that a decree by the Ministries of Finance, of the Interior, and of Commerce of the Government of Austria-Hungary, issued August 27, 1915, provides for a still greater reduction in the production of beer, amounting to from 40 to 50 per cent of the total output.

AMERICAN SHIPS LAND FISH AT CANADIAN PORT.

[Vice Consul Irving N. Linnell, Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Oct. 11.]

The Canadian Fishery Order in Council, permitting American fishing vessels to sell their catches in British Columbia ports, to be shipped in bond to the United States, was signed March 9, 1915. The result has been that many American fishing vessels have brought their fish to this port and sold them to the dealers here. No American ships took advantage of this privilege during the month of March, and only three came here in April. Since that time, however, the number selling their halibut here and the amount of halibut sold have increased steadily. Several of the larger vessels have alternated between this port and Seattle, bringing one catch here and the next to Seattle.

In addition to the halibut brought in, several small American vessels have been bringing in salmon and selling it here. This has, of course, been shipped to the United States.

Prices Paid for Halibut Higher in Seattle.

The prices paid the vessels for halibut have, on the whole, been higher in Seattle than in Prince Rupert during this period, but this difference is offset to the vessels which have been fishing off the Alaskan coast and the coast of northern British Columbia by the saving in time and fuel.

Several of the American fish companies now have their agents in Prince Rupert, buy here, and ship to the United States via the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

The amounts involved from month to month, showing the changes in the traffic, have been:

Month.	Pounds landed from American vessels at Prince Rupert.	Number of trips made by American vessels to Prince Rupert.	Number of pounds shipped to United States from Prince Rupert.	Value of halibut shipped to United States from Prince Rupert.	Number of pounds landed at Seattle.
1915.					
Apr. 1 to Apr. 30.....	100,000	3	193,785	\$16,971	3,863,650
May 1 to May 25.....	299,000	14	567,740	40,953	4,525,000
May 26 to June 25.....	695,000	31	569,350	48,025	3,151,500
June 26 to July 25.....	738,000	48	885,563	76,609	3,044,000
July 26 to Aug. 25.....	1,022,000	43	1,090,614	83,929	2,014,000
Aug. 26 to Sept. 30.....	1,139,000	54	1,743,467	142,968	(e)
Total	3,983,000	193	5,065,499	408,560	(e)

* Figures not yet available.

[COMMERCE REPORTS, in dispatches published Feb. 20, Mar. 23, and Mar. 27, 1915, has described the steps taken by Canadian authorities which have affected the Pacific fishing industry.]

AFRICAN ORANGES FOR ENGLAND.

It is anticipated that large quantities of oranges and other citrus fruits will be available for shipment from South Africa to England during the coming season. In another four years the South African shipments of such fruit will, according to the estimate of Mr. C. du P. Chiappini, British Government Trades Commissioner to South Africa, amount to 400,000 boxes, and in 10 years to 4,000,000 boxes annually.

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC BREADSTUFFS, OILS, ETC.

The following table, prepared by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, gives the quantities and values of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oil exported from the principal customs districts of the United States during September, 1914 and 1915, and the nine months ending September, 1914 and 1915:

Items.	September—		9 months ending September—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
EXPORTS BY GROUPS.				
Breadstuffs.....dollars...	45,335,632	37,981,987	165,968,909	410,410,781
Cottonseed oil.....pounds...	10,189,112	22,647,280	133,914,215	282,671,972
.....dollars...	702,394	1,555,569	9,579,438	19,953,615
Cattle, hogs, and sheep.....dollars...	108,005	223,135	795,512	2,546,634
Meat and dairy products.....dollars...	10,184,813	16,981,029	90,518,033	189,140,655
.....bales.....	125,778	501,581	3,860,322	6,601,001
Cotton.....pounds...	66,874,325	262,676,988	1,994,481,136	3,442,639,615
.....dollars...	5,806,707	28,535,561	242,208,637	807,312,609
Mineral oils.....gallons...	201,645,838	214,743,373	1,695,583,269	1,733,628,143
.....dollars...	12,900,076	12,335,791	107,219,034	105,138,362
Total.....dollars...	75,037,627	97,613,072	616,289,563	1,034,502,456
EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
Corn.....bushels...	1,100,636	764,847	7,369,021	40,300,644
.....dollars...	983,964	641,398	5,724,418	32,845,878
Oats.....bushels...	10,770,348	7,940,431	13,416,409	82,738,916
.....dollars...	6,064,063	3,650,445	7,170,876	49,575,117
Wheat.....bushels...	25,763,047	21,300,123	109,657,106	161,227,401
.....dollars...	29,139,947	24,893,311	105,522,416	230,501,573
Flour.....barrels...	1,223,282	1,002,961	7,980,887	11,184,862
.....dollars...	6,341,046	5,606,701	37,628,175	71,599,573
Beef, canned.....pounds...	2,883,594	1,213,910	7,707,834	61,016,625
.....dollars...	513,502	199,840	1,517,559	9,513,515
Beef, fresh.....pounds...	6,979,984	18,467,738	11,707,893	207,255,532
.....dollars...	973,036	2,297,456	1,563,774	26,727,884
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds...	1,497,697	3,991,431	17,337,454	35,032,726
.....dollars...	163,140	465,905	1,704,645	3,810,817
Oleo oil.....pounds...	5,163,441	11,604,270	69,450,896	75,390,852
.....dollars...	566,724	1,341,904	7,116,244	9,089,127
Bacon.....pounds...	17,393,747	42,144,815	129,727,134	368,308,435
.....dollars...	2,599,974	5,463,788	17,835,416	48,744,726
Hams and shoulders.....pounds...	8,571,054	17,602,201	110,720,482	207,808,836
.....dollars...	1,334,858	2,423,917	16,010,186	28,827,864
Lard.....pounds...	28,292,585	28,744,665	308,804,482	344,263,105
.....dollars...	3,082,804	2,838,840	34,273,676	37,276,764
Neutral lard.....pounds...	1,511,511	1,874,735	18,721,172	23,522,001
.....dollars...	173,137	212,600	2,066,409	2,672,622
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds...	2,729,264	6,744,808	30,256,375	48,261,876
.....dollars...	320,975	662,074	3,314,285	5,079,147
Lard compounds.....pounds...	3,332,451	4,796,931	38,126,231	49,797,161
.....dollars...	307,431	394,454	3,539,806	4,239,603
Crude oil.....gallons...	16,333,781	14,997,987	94,474,332	118,014,941
.....dollars...	627,017	397,144	3,936,634	3,165,039
Illuminating oil.....gallons...	85,725,880	68,381,361	785,038,987	643,964,510
.....dollars...	5,550,430	4,092,561	50,758,714	38,474,730
Lubricating oil.....gallons...	19,722,139	18,492,949	145,732,033	182,775,707
.....dollars...	2,767,128	2,545,898	19,789,304	23,092,746
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons...	21,511,833	20,632,419	150,004,384	207,064,259
.....dollars...	2,313,076	2,638,759	18,862,856	23,745,221
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.....gallons...	58,352,322	92,238,657	520,333,573	581,808,926
.....dollars...	1,642,425	2,661,429	13,871,526	15,760,635

Currants for Canada.

In forwarding the names of six Kingston firms interested in dried currants, Consul Felix S. S. Johnson suggests that Canada should offer an unusually good market for this fruit this season. The addresses may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 67390.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN 12 CITIES OF UNITED STATES.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor has summarized the results of the third study in the series of investigations being made into unemployment. This study, which was undertaken for the bureau by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., includes 12 cities in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast States.

The results of the survey of unemployment in New York City, made in January, 1915, by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., tallied very closely with the results obtained from an independent study made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Because the information on unemployment thus collected for New York was believed to be trustworthy and representative, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. was employed by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics to make studies in these 12 additional cities. The canvass was made during June and July, 1915, and followed the same lines as the Metropolitan's study of unemployment in New York City and vicinity, as published in Bulletin 172 of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The information collected is to appear shortly as a bulletin of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the following table are given the leading facts thus far tabulated, and it includes data relative to the part-time workers as well as to the wholly unemployed:

Cities.	Number of families canvassed.	Number of wage earners in families.	Unemployed.		Part-time wage earners.	
			Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Butte, Mont.	3,557	4,229	298	7.0	536	12.7
Los Angeles, Cal.	5,621	7,227	822	11.4	1,744	24.1
Oakland, Cal.	2,927	4,256	510	12.0	1,144	26.9
Ogden, Utah.	581	887	40	4.5	137	14.3
Portland, Oreg.	1,783	2,347	469	20.0	406	17.3
Sacramento, Cal.	1,288	1,656	170	9.2	439	23.7
Salt Lake City, Utah.	1,052	1,664	173	10.4	296	17.7
San Diego, Cal.	1,406	1,828	305	16.7	533	29.2
San Francisco, Cal.	5,320	7,749	1,205	15.6	1,971	25.4
Seattle, Wash.	10,112	12,473	1,713	12.7	1,992	14.8
Spokane, Wash.	1,012	1,259	210	16.7	257	20.4
Tacoma, Wash.	1,818	2,558	457	17.9	527	20.6
Total	36,537	49,333	6,373	12.9	9,971	20.2

SAVING THE WASTE IN COKE MAKING.

By-products from retort coke ovens in the United States in 1914 included 61 billion cubic feet of gas worth 6 million dollars, 110 million gallons of tar worth 2½ million dollars, 7½ million dollars' worth of ammonia, and 1 million dollars' worth of benzol, etc. However, 57 per cent of the coke production of the country—35 million tons in 1914—still comes from the old-style beehive oven.

About two-thirds of the gas saved is used industrially, but over 50 million cubic feet is sold daily for domestic purposes. Almost the entire supply of gas in some cities is from retort coke ovens. Among these cities are Boston, Mass.; Camden, N. J.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Hamilton, Ohio; Baltimore, Md.; Duluth, Minn.; South Chicago, Ill.; and Milwaukee, Wis.

CHINESE MARKETS FOR AMERICAN LUMBER.

For many months Mr. Franklin H. Smith, a commercial agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has been traveling in the Far East and Australasia, conducting a thoroughgoing investigation into the markets there for the products of American forests. In his report on China, which has just come from the press, he reviews in detail the lumber situation in the great oriental Republic. Mr. Smith is optimistic with respect to China, believing that the future will witness a largely increased use of American woods. The population, he says, "is slowly shaking off the old order of existence and turning toward the new—toward greater agricultural and industrial activity—absorbing new ideas and adopting modern methods. With increasing development along many lines and with the extension of the railroads, with their civilizing and trade-creating effects, there must of necessity come a larger, wider call for lumber. The United States with its durable, easily worked, and comparatively cheap timber will, with proper precautions, control this trade."

Yet, notwithstanding the confidence here expressed and the fact that the United States already gets about half of the Chinese business, Mr. Smith sounds a note of admonition. He points out the desirability of a standard list price, advises closer adherence to grades, touches on the possibility that new competitive sources of supply may come up, and emphasizes the need of direct representation in the Chinese field, and of a campaign of education to acquaint prospective purchasers with the superior qualities of American woods.

Mr. Smith's new booklet is entitled "China and Indo-China Markets for American Lumber" and is No. 104 in the Special Agents Series. The practical, pertinent information contained in it includes many tables of import and export statistics and a careful examination of the situation in each of the principal markets. Attention is given to railroad demands for timber, the market for boxes, barrels, and shooks, and practically all other aspects of the trade that are of interest to American manufacturers. Five cents is the price of this publication, obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

CEREAL CROP OF ROUMANIA.

[L'Économiste Européen, Oct. 1.]

The International Institute of Agriculture estimates at 2,960,000 metric tons (1 metric ton=2,204.6 pounds) the Roumanian harvest of 1915, as compared with 1,260,000 tons in 1914. The harvest was excellent, surpassing by more than 600,000 tons the average of the harvests from 1910 to 1914. The crop of oats for the current year reached 380,000 tons, against 367,400 tons in 1914; that of corn, 2,800,000 tons, against 2,782,700 tons in 1914; barley, 516,000 tons, against 536,600 tons in 1914; rye, 80,000 tons, against 49,700 tons in the preceding year.

The exports of cotton yarn from the United States to Argentina during May, June, and July of this year amounted to nearly ten times as much as those for the entire fiscal year of 1914.

SUGAR-CANE CULTIVATION IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memmlinger, Madras, Aug. 31.]

Sugar-cane cultivation in Cochin on the Malabar coast is now said to be reviving, and the agricultural department of that district proposes suitably to encourage extensive planting. This is due to increased interest in sugar production throughout India. The amount of raw sugar produced in Madras Presidency in the crop year ended June, 1913, the latest for which statistics are available, was 195,666 long tons. Besides cane juice, raw sugar is prepared in this country from the juice of the date tree (*phoenix sylvestris*), the palmyra palm tree (*borassus flabellifer*), and the coconut palm tree (*cocos nucifera*). The palmyra palm affords much of the sugar of South India, especially Tinnevely. It is one of the sources of the substance known in Indian commerce as "jaggery." Southern India does not produce nearly enough sugar for its own needs, and sugars from northern India are consumed as well. The imports by sea to ports in Madras Presidency from all countries in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1913, were valued at \$1,952,279, the bulk of this sugar being from Java.

Factories for making sugar from cane juice have not been invariably successful in South India; in fact, rather the contrary. Some years ago, when the indigo business began to decline, some of the planters built so-called modern sugar factories, but the sites chosen proved not infrequently to be unsuitable, the cane could not be obtained in sufficient quantity, and the factories were too far from the railways.

Difficulty of Establishing Sugar Factories.

With regard to the difficulty of establishing sugar factories in India the following appeared in Commerce, a Calcutta publication, of August 18, 1915:

Mr. William Hulme, sugar engineer expert to the Government of India, in the course of a communication to the International Sugar Journal, draws attention to one of the chief drawbacks at present existing. In his opinion improvement will be slow until some alteration is made to enable the cultivation of the canes to be more concentrated than at present. The cane is grown on scattered areas in little patches of a few acres, which makes it very difficult to supply a factory with anything more than 300 tons per day. Very often the cane is stale when delivered by the slow-moving bullock carts. The cultivators are extremely conservative and difficult to handle. If the proprietors of a factory were to buy the land, the cultivator can not be moved if he holds occupancy rights, as is often the case. Mr. Hulme has known cases where advances have been made to the cultivator for the delivery of sugar cane during the crushing season, when he has retained the best of the canes for making "gur" by the indigenous methods, and delivered the worst of poor cane to the factory.

In short, as the law exists the factory proprietors are dependent upon the cultivators. If the latter refuse to grow sugar cane, the factory proprietors have no redress. This is undoubtedly one strong reason why there are so few sugar factories in India. Another reason is that many orthodox Indians will pay more for sugar made by the indigenous methods and refuse to purchase that made in modern factories. Still there is already some indication that the prejudice against modern sugar is breaking down.

The Review of the River Plate for September 17 announces that the Transandine Railway is expected to be clear for traffic in a few days, thus enabling international service to be resumed after an interruption of several months.

THIS YEAR'S EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

[Cablegram from Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria.]

The Government estimate of the Egyptian cotton crop for 1915 is 607,890 bales of 800 pounds each.

Shipments of Cotton.

The Alexandria General Produce Association furnishes the following statistical résumé of the Egyptian cotton season, September 1, 1914, to August 31, 1915:

Arrivals at Alexandria, 642,849,900 pounds. The exports from Alexandria, by ports of destination, follow:

Country.	Bales.	Country.	Bales.
England:		Italy:	
Liverpool.....	224,947	Genoa.....	135,340
Manchester.....	154,511	Naples.....	7,755
India (Bombay).....	475	Venice.....	21,050
Spain (Barcelona).....	23,104	Leghorn.....	3,556
United States:		Portugal (Oporto and Lexiones).....	756
New York.....	12,126	Russia:	
Boston.....	159,856	Odessa.....	1,293
Philadelphia.....	2,400	Archangel.....	3,795
France:		Vladivostok.....	2,440
Marseille.....	22,396	Sweden and Norway.....	31,442
Dunkirk.....	210	Greece and Turkey.....	2,516
Havre.....	4,502	Total bales.....	832,731
Japan (Kobe and Yokohama).....	18,169		

The 832,731 bales exported were equal to 625,889,640 pounds. The stock at Alexandria to September 1, 1914, was 75,901,249 pounds. The local consumption amounted to 4,644,407 pounds, and that destroyed by fire 30,804 pounds.

Export Movement of Egyptian Cotton Seed.

The following is a statistical résumé of the export movement of Egyptian cotton seed for the cotton season September 1, 1914, to August 31, 1915:

The arrivals at Alexandria were 20,554,704 bushels, and the total stock at Alexandria to September 1, 1914, was 616,789 bushels, making a total of 21,171,493 bushels. The exports from Alexandria were as follows: England (Hull, 8,900,254 bushels; London, 2,482,301 bushels; and other British ports, 6,400,473 bushels); Marseille and other European ports, 48,027 bushels, making a total of 17,831,055 bushels exported. The local consumption was 3,266,400 bushels, and the stock on hand at Alexandria to August 31, 1915, was 74,038 bushels.

TRADE MAGAZINES AND COMMERCIAL PAPERS.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Canada, Oct. 9.]

Requests from this consulate for American catalogues, published in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 30 and October 4, 1915, have had the desired results, and the office staff at present is busy indexing and filing away these books.

Merchants and importers at Kingston are desirous that, in addition to catalogues, there should be on file at the consulate trade magazines and commercial newspapers. It is hoped that publishers of such journals may, in the interest of trade extension abroad, favor this office with copies.

SPAIN PREPARED TO BUY AMERICAN LEATHER.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 16.]

A shortage in the leather market at Seville, due to the closing of certain sources of supply by the war, offers an exceptional opportunity for the sale of American goods. Several inquiries have been made at the Seville consulate recently, and the consul has shown samples on file there. One inquirer, after investigating prices, terms, etc., has sent to the American manufacturer for a sample shipment of 70 skins and expects to do a good business.

An investigation by the consul shows that there is a call for almost all classes of leather. The varieties especially needed are russet, black, and patent leather for shoe tops. Sole leather is manufactured in Spain, and it seems doubtful if American firms can compete in this line, owing to the lower prices here.

Inquirers state that, in buying leather, quality is usually considered before price, and while the market is accustomed to terms of from 30 to 90 days, cash will be paid if necessary. A permanent business can hardly be built up on those lines, however, and the orders will return to the old channels as soon as normal conditions are resumed, unless American manufacturers are prepared to meet the terms heretofore given in this country.

Does Not Always Use Entire Credit Extended.

In the past, leather has been received here from Germany, France, and England, the first-mentioned country giving credit of 120 days. The Spanish merchant does not always use the entire credit extended to him, but looks upon the willingness to extend credit as evidence of confidence in his business integrity. A refusal to give credit is looked upon almost as an insult.

Prices for this market should be given in pesetas, if possible, c. i. f. Seville or Cadiz. Prices in francs are similarly satisfactory, and can be more easily compared with Spanish prices and prices received from other European countries than if quoted in American dollars. If quotations c. i. f. are impossible, they should at least be f. o. b. New York, or other point from which regular shipping facilities to Spain exist. The cost of packing is usually included in the price by European firms.

Heretofore purchases have been made almost entirely from European sources through commercial travelers visiting the Spanish cities at regular periods, because of better prices, cheaper freight and insurance rates, and shorter time required in transit. Commission agents handling this class of goods here usually expect a commission of 5 per cent. The importations of leather at Seville during 1914, in kilos of 2.2046 pounds each, were:

Classes of leather.	From abroad.	From Spanish ports.
Untanned.....	Kilos. 2,080	Kilos. 3,010
Tanned.....	617	14,679
Patent.....	511	1,100
Sole.....	1,854	255,180

Some Foreign Leather Reshipped to Seville.

These importations from abroad do not represent the entire quantity of foreign-made leathers here, as much of the leather credited to Spanish ports originates abroad, comes to the large importers at Barcelona, and is reshipped to Seville. A considerable quantity of leather also comes here by rail from other Spanish cities and does not appear on the customs statistics of Seville.

Lists of persons interested in leather, and who have made inquiries at the consulate, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67128. The consul suggests that samples and prices be sent to the persons on the list, and duplicates sent to the consulate, to be filed and shown to other interested parties. Correspondence and literature should be in the Spanish language.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE NOTES.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Sept. 23.]

New Houses Erected—Incandescent Gas Mantles.

Though not so active as last year, the building trade is steady. During August 339 new houses were erected in Melbourne; in the corresponding month of 1914 the total was 558.

The governmental elimination of the company that up to this time has enjoyed a practical monopoly of Australia's trade in incandescent gas mantles opens this market to the wares of other manufacturers. Australia's imports of incandescent mantles in 1913 (the latest year for which figures are at hand) were valued at \$139,850.

Woolen Piece Goods—Linen Window Shades.

Importers of woolen piece goods for men's clothing report that some difficulty is being experienced in obtaining supplies from Europe. American manufacturers of such goods are advised to send out their samples and quote prices. Very light fabrics, of almost tropical weight, are in demand in all the States except Victoria, which uses medium-weight goods.

Linen window shades, commonly known as "Hollands," may find a market in Australia if prices are satisfactory and deliveries can be made with reasonable promptness. Lightweight material is most in demand in widths of 36, 42, 45, 54, and 72 inches.

Bill to Regulate Footwear Trade.

A bill which has just been introduced into the Parliament of Victoria "to regulate the manufacture and sale of footwear" prohibits, under penalty, the sale of boots and shoes the soles of which do not consist entirely of leather, unless a true statement of the materials composing the sole is conspicuously and legibly stamped upon its outer surface. The name or registered trade-mark of the manufacturer must also be stamped upon or impressed into the soles of all footwear offered for sale in the State. In case the bill is passed by the Victorian Parliament, it is to go into effect by proclamation of the Governor in Council, to be made when the Governor is satisfied that a similar act has been passed by the Parliament of New South Wales.

[A copy of this bill may be examined at the Washington office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file No. 779.]

FOREIGN TARIFF NOTES.**CANADA.**

[Customs Memorandum No. 1955-B, Oct. 12, 1915.]

Admission of Potatoes from United States.

The prohibition of the importation of potatoes originating in the States of Maine and New York has been removed and such potatoes may now be admitted into Canada without inspection by an officer of the Department of Agriculture. [For previous notices regarding restrictions on potatoes imported into Canada from the United States, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 15, p. 56, and No. 17, p. 135.]

CEYLON.**Export Duties.**

According to a dispatch appearing in the London Times, October 2, 1915, the Government of Ceylon has established the following export duties, in effect October 1: Tea, 1.50 rupees for 100 pounds; rubber, 7.50 rupees per 100 pounds; cocoa, 1.50 rupees per 100 pounds; cardamoms, 7.50 rupees per 100 pounds; coconuts, 2 rupees per 1,000 pounds; desiccated coconut, 0.70 rupees per hundredweight; copra, 0.40 rupee per hundredweight; coconut oil, 0.75 rupee per hundredweight. The former export duties on tea, cocoa, and cardamoms were, respectively, 0.15, 0.15, and 0.75 rupee per 100 pounds; the remaining products were previously exempt from export duty. [Rupee, \$0.324; hundredweight, 112 pounds.]

GERMANY.

[Nachrichtenblatt für die Zollstellen, Aug. 1, 1915.]

Temporary Exemptions and Reductions.

From time to time since the outbreak of the European war, the German Government has granted temporary free admission in the case of various articles, mostly foodstuffs and mineral products, and in a few instances has reduced the rate of duty on imported products. The reduction, as well as the exemptions, are to continue indefinitely, presumably until the end of the war. [A complete list of the products for which exemption or admission at reduced rates of duty has been allowed was issued under date of Aug. 1, 1915, and a copy is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

ITALY.

[Bollettino Ufficiale, No. 85, Aug. 29, 1915.]

Admission of Sausage Casings.

The removal of the prohibition of the importation of pork (fresh, salted, smoked, or otherwise prepared) from the United States has been followed by the rescinding of the regulation prohibiting the importation into Italy of sausage casings of American origin. Such articles may now be admitted, provided they have been properly dried, salted, or otherwise preserved, and that shipments are accompanied by the usual sanitary certificate, as well as by the certificate of origin required in the case of imports from countries entitled to most-favored-nation treatment, which must be viséed by the Italian

consular officer having jurisdiction in the place of production. Such shipments are subject to inspection by the sanitary officials at the port of entry, and importation is restricted to the ports of Genoa, Naples, and Venice. [For notice regarding the admission of pork see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 17, p. 137.]

RUSSIA.

[Vestnik Finansov, Oct. 6 (19), 1915.]

Exemption from Presentation of Certificates of Origin.

In accordance with the provisions of a customs circular under date of August 29 (Sept. 11), 1915, a number of articles are added to the list of those which may be imported without presentation of certificate of origin. In determining the origin of such articles, the customs authorities are to be guided by the shipping documents, but should also make use of any other sources of information at their disposal. In case evidence is found that the goods are of German, Austro-Hungarian, or Turkish origin the discriminating surtaxes are to be applied. [See Foreign Tariff Notes No. 16, pp. 90-91, and No. 17, pp. 137-138.] The articles included in the present customs circular are as follows: Hides and skins, dressed and undressed; leather belting; wooden parts of machines; grindstones and whetstones; grinding and polishing substances and manufactures thereof, including carbon articles for electrotechnical purposes; colophany; rubber and gutta-percha and manufactures thereof; chloride of lime; certain chemicals included under No. 112, such as chlorates of potassium and sodium, calcium carbide, benzol, etc.; white lead and zinc white; mineral ores; cast iron; copper, aluminum, nickel, and various alloys, not specified, in bars, rods, and sheets; manufactures of such metals and alloys; manufactures of cast iron; manufactures of iron or steel, not specified, forged, stamped, or cast, including forged nails; steam boilers and accessories; wire of copper, aluminum, nickel, and various alloys; manufactures of wire and electric cables; cutlery; scythes and sickles; machinery and apparatus of all kinds; scientific instruments and apparatus of all kinds; wood pulp; wool and hair; various textiles for industrial purposes, including camel-hair belting; twine; bags and bagging; machine belting of hemp and cotton.

MILK AND BUTTER PRICES IN NORMANDY.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, France, Sept. 16.]

In Normandy the retail prices of milk are 15 to 20 centimes (\$0.029 to \$0.039) per liter (1.06 quarts) in summer, and 20 to 25 centimes (\$0.039 to \$0.048) per liter in winter. The prices of butter in summer are 2.80 to 3.20 francs (\$0.54 to \$0.62) per kilo (2.2 pounds), and in winter 3.70 to 4.20 francs (\$0.71 to \$0.81) per kilo. Cream is sold only in the neighborhood of the cities and towns. The retail prices are: In summer, 1 to 1.20 francs (\$0.19 to \$0.23) per liter; in winter, 1.50 to 1.80 francs (\$0.29 to \$0.35) per liter.

The cost of production of milk is given as 8 to 10 centimes (\$0.015 to \$0.019) per liter in summer and 12 to 15 centimes (\$0.023 to \$0.029) in winter.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Bridge, No. 18985.—The county councils of Kilkenny and Wexford, Ireland, invite designs, etc., for a bridge at Ferry Mountgarrett over the river Barrow. Further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. A. M. Burden, county surveyor, Kilkenny, Ireland, accompanied with a cash deposit of \$24.33, which deposit will be returned when the particulars sent are handed back either with or without a design. Designs must be filed with the county surveyor by November 30, 1915. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

General agency, No. 18986.—A business man in Australia is making a tour of the United States with a view to consummating selling agreements with American manufacturers who desire to place their commodities on Australian markets. Full information may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

Boilers, No. 18987.—Tenders are invited by the New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways Department for the supply, erection, and maintenance for 12 months of two water-tube boilers, with accessories, at Newcastle, N. S. W. Copies of specification, conditions, and form of tender may be obtained from the office of the Electrical Engineer, New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways, 61 Hunter Street, Sydney, N. S. W., on payment of \$5.11 for the first copy and \$2.43 for each subsequent copy. Tenders will be received by the Chief Commissioner for Railways and Tramways, Phillip Street, Sydney, N. S. W., until January 12, 1916. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit on the following scale: \$24.33 for tenders not exceeding \$973; \$48.66 for tenders over \$973 but not exceeding \$2,433; \$73 for tenders over \$2,433 but not exceeding \$4,866; \$97.33 for tenders over \$4,866 but not exceeding \$9,733; and 1 per cent of the value of the offer if above \$9,733. Local representation is necessary. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Automobiles, electric apparatus, etc., No. 18988.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a man in that country is interested in automobiles, electric apparatus, boat motors, motor cycles and supplies, typewriters, and new inventions in the technical line. It is stated that the man desires to buy such goods for his own account and act as sole buying agent for Holland and colonies. He proposes to pay cash against documents in the Netherlands or cash in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

Railway, No. 18989.—The Gaceta de Madrid of September 17, 1915, states that tenders will be opened at the "Direccion-General de Obras Publicas," Madrid, Spain, on November 20, 1915, for the construction and working, for a period of 99 years, of a secondary railway from Zumarraga to Zumaya. The cost of construction is estimated at about \$1,411,285, on which interest not exceeding 5 per cent per annum will be guaranteed by the State. The minimum rolling stock required to work the line will be 5 locomotives, 19 passenger coaches, 5 brake vans, and 78 goods wagons. An option on the concession is held by the Compania de los Ferrocarriles Vascongados. Construction work must be begun within three months from the date of the award of the concession and completed within a period of three years. Although the above contract will probably be awarded to Spanish firms, nevertheless the carrying out of the work may involve the purchase of materials outside of Spain. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Automobile tires, No. 18990.—An American consular officer in an insular possession reports that there is a market in his district for automobile tires. Correspondence may be in English.

Vegetable glue, No. 18991.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Portugal that a firm in his district is in the market for vegetable glue, sometimes called "zeaporit," probably made of potato and other ingredients, and used in the tanning industry. It is usually packed in barrels,

in an almost liquid state. The firm requires about 3,000 kilos. Samples and prices are desired at once. The firm will pay cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English.

Mailing machine, No. 18992.—The Bureau is informed by a firm in the United States that its agent in Holland is in the market for a mailing machine to wrap newspapers.

Wire netting, No. 18993.—A firm in the United States has informed the Bureau that a sea-bathing establishment on the Pacific coast of Central America desires to secure samples or catalogues giving views of different netting to inclose the bathing inclosure from the open sea. Prices should be given f. o. b. New York.

Sewing machines, typewriters, etc., No. 18994.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Russia that a firm desires to know the names and addresses of manufacturers of sewing and knitting machines, typewriters, needles, typewriter ribbons, carbon paper, cigarette lighters, and black and white press-buttons. Samples are desired. Correspondence should be in Russian. Prices, weights, etc., should be stated in Russian equivalents. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Vladivostok.

Advertising novelties, spectacle frames and lenses, etc., No. 18995.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of advertising novelties, spectacle frames and lenses, and electrical pocket lamps.

Plumbers' supplies, No. 18996.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in India that a man in his district wishes to be supplied with catalogues, price lists, and terms of sole agency for the sale of sanitary plumbing supplies.

Automatic typesetting machine, No. 18997.—An American consular officer in Central America reports that a firm in his district desires prices and catalogues on automatic typesetting machines, preferably of the monotype variety. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Cloth and canvas fishing bags, No. 18998.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom transmits the name of a firm desiring to receive catalogues and price lists, in English currency, for sailcloth fishing bags, with shoulder straps, which can be retailed at 49 cents, and brown canvas bags retailing at \$1.82 each. It is suggested that a price of \$4.26 per dozen for the former, and \$14.60 per dozen for the latter, would receive consideration. Quotations should be c. i. f. destination, or f. o. b. New York. The firm is accustomed to a 2½ per cent discount monthly.

Boiler supplies, No. 18999.—A commercial organization in the United States informs the Bureau that a business man in Spain is interested in Martin Siemen's soft steel plates for boilers, pipes, and tools for boiler manufacturers, bases for boilers and hydraulic presses, and steam and water cast-iron turbines. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Statistics of the French Ministry of Agriculture, furnished by Consul Osborne, of Havre, show the number of farm animals of each kind in France on July 1, 1915. There were 2,227,209 horses, 152,266 mules, 332,244 asses, 12,286,849 beef cattle, 13,483,189 sheep, 5,490,796 swine, and 469,487 goats.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

INDIA'S NEW CROP OF SESAME SEED.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Sept. 7.]

From the first forecast of the sesame crop in British India for 1915-16, which has just been issued by the Department of Statistics, it appears that the total area sown up to date in the Madras region is 296,000 acres, which is 38 per cent in excess of the area at this date last year. This should produce about 26,000 tons.

The area sown is above normal throughout the whole Telugu country or northern parts where rains have generally been favorable. The only districts showing a decrease are Kurnool and parts of Anantapur. In the center and the south the sowings have been short in Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, and to a lesser degree in Salem, but are practically up to the average elsewhere. Of the entire area under cultivation in India this year, estimated from preliminary returns at 1,811,000 acres, 16.6 per cent is in the Madras district. In this region the seed are usually sown in April and May and the crop reaped three or four months later, but in the case of irrigated lands sowings sometimes take place in January or February. Exports of sesame seed from Madras ports for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, were 19,075 hundredweight, valued at \$62,642. This was 71 per cent less both in quantity and value than in the previous year, and the figures were the smallest ever recorded. Exports to France and Austria-Hungary entirely ceased, and those to Ceylon fell off 7 per cent. Local consumption, however, continued as great as ever.

Properties and Utilization of Sesame Seed.

Sesamum indicum, the til or gingeli of British India, has at least two easily recognized forms in this country—one with white seeds (safed til), the other with black (kala til). The latter is the most abundant and is reputed to yield a superior oil. The method of manufacture is by expression in mills. The oil is clear and limpid, varying in color from pale yellow to dark amber. In India this product is largely used for culinary purposes, in anointing the body, in soap manufacture, and as a lamp oil. It is also frequently employed as an adulterant of ghee, a form of native butter. As it resembles olive oil in many of its properties, it is accordingly similarly utilized. When exported to England it is chiefly used there for making soap.

The oil from the black variety of sesame is generally stated to be more suitable for medicinal purposes than the white. It is also extensively employed in the manufacture of Indian perfumes, and for this purpose the perfume is frequently extracted by the seeds direct—layers of the seeds being placed between layers of flowers, etc. Thus a favorite jasmine extract in India is made by layers of sesame seed wetted in water being placed alternately with layers of jasmine flowers, all being covered with a cloth and left for 12 to 18 hours, after which an oil is obtained that has all the scent of the flower.

The white-seeded form of sesame is largely eaten as an article of food, more especially in certain sweetmeats. The oil cake left after expression of the oil is even eaten as food by the poorer classes. In Madras tanghedi bark is sometimes added to the seed before being pressed for oil.

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No. 254

Washington, D. C., Friday, October 29

1915

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FISHERIES BUREAU CRAFT LANDS TILEFISH.

The fishing schooner *Stranger*, of Gloucester, Mass., which is being used by the United States Bureau of Fisheries in its efforts to establish a fishery and market for tilefish, returned to New York City with a second fare of tilefish on the morning of October 27, after having been away from port less than five days. The catch consisted of 12,000 pounds, and the fish were reported as abundant. The grounds on which this catch was made are those lying most conveniently with reference to New York City.

FIFESHIRE LINEN TRADE WITH UNITED STATES.

[Consul H. D. Van Sant, Dunfermline, Scotland, Oct. 9.]

The Scottish linen export trade from the Dunfermline consular district to the United States shows a total decrease of \$400,423 compared with the corresponding quarter of 1914. The total value of the exports was \$288,546 compared with \$697,971 for the previous September quarter. Linens and union goods were valued at \$218,519, a decrease of \$389,677; cotton goods, \$10,122, a decrease of \$7,797; and linoleums, \$27,346, a decrease of \$28,085.

For several months the trade has been in a somewhat depressed condition, though an extra supply of flax and yarns helped to revive the linen industry for a time during the spring, falling off again in July and August. At one time it was anticipated by some manufacturers that before now several factories might have had to close, but as a result of the gradual substitution of cheaper cotton goods for linens all the manufacturers have been enabled to keep the factories running on short time. Linen yarns are higher in price and more difficult to obtain, yet there is a fair prospect of fall trade. Cotton yarns also seem to be rising rapidly in price with difficulty of securing prompt deliveries. Many looms in the factories are idle, partly owing to the shortage of labor occasioned by the war. The improvement in American orders has not been marked, and increased freight and the dislocation of shipping appear to be disturbing factors of the future. Not much improvement can be expected until some time after the closing of the crisis; in some quarters the prospects appear to be for even lower shipments for the time being.

INEXPENSIVE JEWELRY FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent,¹ Manila, Sept. 4.]

The Philippines offer a good market for jewelry of all kinds. These islands in 1913 bought \$158,000 worth of gold and silver articles, \$139,000 worth of plated jewelry, \$21,700 worth of plated tableware, and \$17,700 worth of other plated goods. Last year purchases fell off except as to plated tableware, but the trade was still important, as the table of imports below discloses.

Articles.	1913	1914	Articles.	1913	1914
Gold, platinum, and silver, manufactures of:			Plated ware, gold and silver:		
Jewelry	\$100,205	\$71,147	Jewelry	\$139,203	\$87,340
United States	50,118	36,016	United States	122,933	78,462
France	30,989	21,528	France	8,233	2,412
Germany	14,205	10,350	Germany	8,555	5,066
Switzerland	1,055	878	Japan	1,071	353
China	2,602	1,585	Tableware	21,745	23,297
Other	58,220	40,766	United States	19,777	21,540
United States	43,241	30,319	Other	17,733	10,340
France	7,407	6,193	United States	8,836	7,179
Germany	3,796	2,287	United Kingdom	2,370	116
Spain	1,523	291	Germany	3,534	1,850
China	1,026	793	Japan	1,116	619

Cheap watches and similar lines are especially in demand; ornate toilet sets of the cheaper grades also sell well. Filipinos are particularly susceptible to the appeal of the mail-order catalogue, and American houses would undoubtedly be able to increase their business materially by the judicious use of carefully prepared catalogues; even those in English would reach a large circle of buyers at the present time. Full and explicit directions for ordering should always be included.

SASH AND DOORS FOR ITALY.

[Consul Jay White, Naples.]

In spite of war conditions there is considerable building being carried on in Naples. Apartment houses are being erected in the Vomero, Piedegrotto, Torretto, and other sections, one of the finest being in course of erection near the center of the city on the reclaimed ground to the south of Santa Lucia. The contracts for these works, however, were all let before the European hostilities began.

Construction work in Naples is different from that in the United States, the only point of resemblance being in the use of steel and iron girders for strengthening the floors of buildings. Window frames, doors, and shutters are all made by hand, and there would seem to be an opportunity in this business for American enterprise. American flooring and trimmings are used, but up to the present American builder's hardware and plumbing goods have not been able to compete in Naples with European products on account of prices.

¹ Mr. Boomer is unable to reply to letters of inquiry from American firms. All letters and catalogues received by him are turned over to the Manila Merchants' Association, with which he has made arrangements to have correspondence answered. Stamps in denominations of the United States are of no value in the Philippine Islands and should not be inclosed.

AUSTRALIA'S INCOME-TAX LAW.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Sept. 23, supplementing report published Oct. 9.]

Section 14 of the Federal Income-Tax Assessment Act provides (1) that in the case of a person selling goods in Australia on account of a person not resident in Australia, or on account of a company not registered in Australia, the principal shall be deemed to have derived from such sale a taxable income equal to 5 per cent upon the price at which the goods were sold; and (2) that the person selling the goods shall be assessable on the taxable income as the agent for the principal, and shall be personally liable for the payment of the tax. The Federal Income-Tax Commissioner, Mr. G. A. McKay, has made public the following interpretation of the application of this section, which appears to concern all American commission houses and some manufacturers doing business through agents in Australia:

There are many cases in which the selling agents do not handle any of the proceeds of the sales made by them. This section will require all such persons to arrange with their principals to be supplied with funds out of which they may pay the tax. In the many cases in which the principal is doing business through a separate agent for each State, or for sets of States, the agents should arrange between themselves as to which of them should be placed in funds for the purpose of payment of tax, because the act requires that the whole of the agents for a principal shall send their separate returns of their principal's business to the commissioner's office, at the Rialto, Collins Street, Melbourne, in order that one assessment may be made of the whole of the income derived by the principal from his Australian business.

It will be noted that the agent contemplated by the section is a selling agent, i. e., an agent who takes orders, either personally or through an employee, on account of the principal. It does not apply to a representative who may travel throughout Australia to urge persons to purchase his principal's goods but does not receive orders, the orders being given to some established Australian house, or Australian house of, for example, an export agency in Europe or America, and such representatives are not called upon to make any return on behalf of their principal's business. They must, however, render their personal returns for all income derived by themselves in Australia from all sources.

It is to be noted that the act fixes at 5 per cent the profit derived from transactions covered by the above section 14, whereas in the majority of cases the gross commission of the larger houses doing business with Australia does not exceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and in transactions of considerable volume is frequently less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

IMPORTS AT RIO DE JANEIRO.

[Boletim da Alfandega, Sept. 15.]

During the first half of the month of September nearly one-fifth of the vessels, or 10 out of 53, from foreign ports entering the port of Rio de Janeiro carried entire cargoes of coal, just half of them coming from the United States and the other half from England. The next largest single item of import was wheat, two cargoes coming from Argentina and one from the United States. With the exception of one cargo each of alfalfa and fuel oil, the remaining cargoes were of mixed goods, one-third of them coming from the United States.

AMERICAN MERCHANTS IN CHINA ELECT OFFICERS.

[Consul C. H. Gauss, detailed as vice consul, Shanghai, China, Aug. 22.]

At a meeting of American business men of Shanghai on August 18, the American Chamber of Commerce of China completed organization, adopted by-laws and rules, and elected officers and a committee. The object of the chamber, as set out in its rules, is to watch over and protect the general interests of American commerce, to collect information on all matters of interest to the American mercantile community, and to use every means within its power for the removal of evil, the redress of grievances, and the promotion of the common good; to communicate with the authorities and others thereupon; to receive references and to arbitrate between disputants, the decisions to be recorded for future guidance.

Membership in the organization is open to all American mercantile firms and persons engaged or interested in American commerce or shipping in China.

The first president of the Chamber is Mr. J. H. McMichael, senior partner of the firm of Frazar & Co., which has long been established as an American firm in China. The vice president is Mr. J. W. Gallagher, general representative in China of the United States Steel Products Co. The secretary is Mr. P. L. Bryant, assistant editor of the *Far Eastern Review*, an American journal of commerce, engineering, and finance, published at Shanghai.

Committee Chosen at Organization Meeting.

The committee of the Chamber, as chosen at the organization meeting, includes Mr. L. Andersen, managing director of Mustard & Co., one of the oldest American houses in China and the distributors of the British-American Tobacco Co. of China; Mr. C. H. Blake, general manager of the Standard Oil Co. of New York in China; Mr. J. Harold Dollar, of the Robert Dollar Co.; Mr. F. A. Fairchild, manager of the China & Japan Trading Co.; Mr. J. W. Gallagher, vice president of the Chamber; Mr. J. N. Jameson, of Wisner & Co.; Mr. N. T. Saunders, of George H. Macy & Co.; Mr. J. H. McMichael, the president of the Chamber; Mr. J. B. Southmayd, manager for China of the Singer Sewing Machine Co., and Mr. P. F. Wisner, the senior partner of P. F. Wisner & Co.

Honorary membership in the Chamber is provided under the by-laws, and was conferred upon the American minister at Peking, the American chargé d'affaires, the commercial attaché of the legation, the American consul general at Shanghai, and the senior American vice consul at Shanghai.

The Chamber of Commerce proposes to affiliate with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and it is expected that it will exert a wide influence, working through the national organization of the United States, for a better understanding of conditions in China on the part of American manufacturers and others interested in the China trade. The temporary office of the secretary is at 5 Jinkee Road, Shanghai.

[A copy of the by-laws and rules of the American Chamber of Commerce of China will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 66639.]

[Commercial Attaché Julian H. Arnold, American Legation, Peking, Aug. 25.]

Will Be Helpful in Extending American Trade.

The American Chamber of Commerce of China ought to do a great deal to help in the extension of American trade in this country, for this represents the first steps taken by the exclusively American business interests in China to effect an American trade organization to assist, in a general way, the advancement of the interests of American trade in this country.

The Chamber will be very helpful in furnishing information in regard to matters which concern American trade interests in China, and this office hopes in turn to be of much assistance to the Chamber in supplying it with material which would be useful to its members in their desire to extend their business dealings with the Chinese. It is to be hoped that American manufacturers and exporters securing agencies and other business connections will communicate with the American Chamber of Commerce, soliciting their assistance, so that, wherever possible, agencies for American materials may be placed with American firms.

Undoubtedly, as soon as this commercial organization has perfected its details of operation, a statement will be made for the benefit of American manufacturers and exporters who are desirous of utilizing its services for the advancement of their interests in this country.

[Previous references have been made by COMMERCE REPORTS to the formation of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, Aug. 6, 1915; the American Chamber for Spain, Apr. 29; the American Chamber in Milan, Mar. 9, Apr. 8, Apr. 30, and Aug. 12, 1915; American Chamber for the Levant, Jan. 20 and Jan. 30; American Chamber at Naples, June 25; American Chamber for Brazil, Oct. 5; and American Export Chamber at Amsterdam, Sept. 3 and Sept. 16.]

FORECAST OF INDIA'S OILSEED CROPS.

[Consul General James A. Smith, Calcutta, Sept. 18.]

Yesterday's issue of the Indian Government Trade Journal contained a supplementary forecast of the 1914-15 oilseed crops of India. These latest figures place the area and yield of rape, mustard, and linseed at:

	Acres.	Tons.		Acres.	Tons.
<i>Rape and mustard.</i>			<i>Linseed.</i>		
United Provinces	2,540,300	573,400	Central Provinces and Berar	1,222,600	78,700
Bengal	1,315,600	232,000	United Provinces	886,300	157,600
Punjab	1,042,200	165,400	Bihar and Orissa	623,800	101,700
Bihar	681,300	97,600	Bengal	188,700	26,600
Bihar and Orissa	300,500	59,200	Bombay (including Native States)	125,500	16,700
Assam	113,900	13,100	Punjab	48,000	4,600
Northwest Frontier Province	428,500	46,300	Hyderabad	234,000	8,900
Sind (including Native States)	85,000	21,000			
Bombay (including Native States)	7,000	200			
Hyderabad					
Total	6,524,200	1,208,200	Total	3,328,900	394,800

RESULTS OF FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, at Tripoli, Libya, writes that a sample order for saddles has been placed in the United States by a merchant at Tripoli as a result of Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 16895, which was published in COMMERCE REPORTS on May 22, 1915.

SPANISH COOPERATIVE FARM COLONY LAUNCHED.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Jerez de la Frontera, Sept. 18.]

Operating under a law which provides for the settling of unused lands and the diminution of emigration, the municipality of Jerez de la Frontera has conveyed pasture land to a cooperative colony known as "Colonia Agrícola de Caulina." There are 479.39 acres, and about 75 per cent will be subdivided into 75 lots of 4.94 acres each, to be assigned to 75 families, the balance to be used for community and administrative buildings, roads, canals, and forestry reserve.

These families, selected from among the poor, and considered capable of agricultural work, will be settled on the property, and all expenses of buildings, clearing, and seeding will be advanced from the appropriation. In addition, domestic animals will be furnished to the colonists, as well as all implements, tools, etc., necessary for the proper cultivation, the cost to be deducted from the proceeds of the crops in equal annual installments for 10 years.

To Deduct Cost of Supplies from Proceeds of Crops.

All food, clothing, medicines, etc., necessary to the sustenance of the families will be issued from the cooperative depot, on orders, and will be deducted annually from the proceeds of the crops. Expenditures for buildings or irrigation are to be repaid in equal annual installments for 50 years.

For the first five years the colonist will be a mere possessor of the soil, without title, and may be dispossessed for cause. At the end of this period, title passes to the settler, subject to any liens still held by the association.

This colony follows the lines of the one established in San Lucar de Barrameda in 1911, which has proved quite successful, except that this project provides for the return of the advanced capital to the State, while the one at San Lucar does not. The land itself, being a gift of the municipality, will be absolutely free to the settlers.

OUTLOOK FOR CANADIAN LOBSTER FISHERIES.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 18.]

Last year the United Kingdom purchased Canadian canned lobsters to the value of \$1,010,367; France, \$703,469; Belgium, \$124,283; Germany, \$182,033; and Russia, \$2,160. Other countries purchasing were: United States, \$808,296; Denmark, \$33,069; Netherlands, \$31,713; Norway, \$14,114; Sweden, \$69,092. Europe will doubtless take but small quantities of Canadian lobsters this year, and from all accounts there will be a falling off in exports to the United States (which, in addition to the canned lobsters mentioned, purchased \$70,748 worth of fresh lobsters).

Canadian cannerymen have asked the Dominion Government to suspend fishing licenses for a year, so that surplus stock may be sold. It is stated on good authority that the Canadian lobster beds need a rest and that the present is an opportune time to remedy the damage done by the extensive and illegitimate capture of young lobsters; further, that if another season's catch is thrown on the overstocked market the returns to fishermen and cannerymen would be very small in comparison with the cost of production.

PARAGUAYAN MARKET FOR SHOE POLISHES.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Aug. 18.]

The shoe polishes sold in Paraguay have in the past been imported principally from Germany. Polishes of German manufacture are offered for sale here at about one-half the price charged for the American article. To customers here price is a factor of far greater importance than quality. The greater part of the polishes sold here are bought by bootblacks. As the charge for polishing is, at the present rate of exchange, about 2 cents, it follows that the polish used must be of the cheapest grade obtainable.

Tan polishes are used more largely than any other, with black second, and white dressings third. In black and tan polishes, the paste without any liquid dressing is used almost exclusively. Polishes retail here at the following prices: Tan and black paste polishes, \$0.02, \$0.04, and \$0.06 per can; white dressings, \$0.10 to \$0.25 per package.

Practically all the dealers handling shoe polishes buy direct from manufacturers or foreign commission houses. The terms vary; in small orders the rule is cash with order, while in larger orders 90 days after acceptance of draft has been allowed. It would be better to sell to various dealers than to establish an exclusive agency, as no dealer buys in very large quantity.

The best method of introducing polishes would be by sending personal letters and catalogues in Spanish, as well as samples to dealers. The demand for polishes here would not warrant an expensive campaign of introduction. The demand is for the cheapest possible polishes.

[A list of dealers in shoe polish in Asuncion may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 66587.]

RESTRICTING ALCOHOLISM AT TRIESTE.

[Consul Ralph C. Busser, Trieste, Austria, Aug. 9.]

An order issued from the governor's office August 6, 1915, provides that no alcoholic drinks shall be sold on Sundays or holidays, and on other days their sale shall be permitted only from 7 a. m. to 4 p. m. Neither wholesale nor retail dealers may sell to army men, to employees of undertakings working on account of the military, to persons liable to military service, or to prisoners of war. During the passage of army transports, military trains, etc., no alcoholic drink shall be sold to anyone, except by medical prescription or by order of a military commandant. Such drinks must not be supplied to youths under 18, to habitual drinkers, to persons under the influence of drink, to beggars and vagabonds, or to weak-minded or violent persons. No drink is to be sold on credit or in exchange for eatables.

Wholesale dealers and distillers may execute orders received from retailers during the prohibited hours of sale to the public, but such operations are to be effected in places closed to the public.

The penalty for offenses against this order may be a fine of 2 to 200 crowns, arrest from 6 hours to 14 days, the closing of bars or other premises, and the withdrawal of licenses.

MINING INDUSTRY IN CATALONIA.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Sept. 9.]

The mineral wealth of northeastern Spain, the most mountainous part of the country, has not yet been fully exploited. Formerly the inhabitants of this region devoted particular attention to mining, and by their ingenuity invented what is known as the Catalan forge, still cited as a model in chemical and metallurgical treatises, even after centuries of scientific progress. However, all such forges have now disappeared from this consular district, except one found intact in the Pyrenees and regarded as an object of great interest in connection with the Spanish mining industry.

People Turned from Mining to Manufacturing—Development in Andalusia.

On account of the rapid increase in manufacturing activity that took place in this country during the nineteenth century the attention of the people in this district turned from mining to other industries, which have since greatly developed, resulting in the neglect of vast mineral resources. At the same time in other parts of Spain mining steadily progressed. First in this respect is the district of Andalusia, where the extraordinary development of mineral deposits may be attributed in part to an unusual manner of exploitation. When indications are discovered of the existence of an exploitable mineral there an association is organized and a prospectus drawn up as to the probable expense of mining. The members of the association then pay their pro rata share of the expense in monthly installments, which, according to the number of members, varies from 5 to 10 pesetas (\$0.90 to \$1.80) each. If the venture is successful, very profitable results are obtained, and if not the loss is comparatively insignificant.

Lack of Smelting Works—Lead-Mining Enterprises.

In Catalonia this small cooperative system is not in vogue, and there are numerous difficulties to overcome because of a lack of smelting works in the neighborhood, thus necessitating the shipment of ore by rail to distant parts of the Kingdom. The long transportation makes the minerals mined so expensive that the profits are generally reduced to a minimum. In order to avoid the cost of freight one large mining enterprise in Catalonia has erected a smelter at the mouth of its mines. The less important mining companies, however, which can not alone stand the expense of similar improvements, are obliged to sell their products on a very narrow margin. This is especially the case with lead-mining enterprises. While northeastern Spain is rich in this metal, most of the lead foundries of Spain are controlled by foreign capital. Recently an enterprise in Barcelona has built a lead foundry in a suburb of this city on the left of the Llobregat River delta near principal lines of communication by land and water. This new work marks an advance, and it is hoped here that it will encourage the investment of capital for the further exploitation of the mineral resources of this region.

The contract for the construction of a Bolivian railway between La Quiaca and Tupiza has been awarded to a Paris firm, which has already acquired 160,000 quebracho sleepers in Argentina, as well as other materials.

CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Aug. 20.]

The city of Concepcion, about 132 miles north of Asuncion, is the trading center of northern Paraguay. It has a population of about 15,000 inhabitants and is connected with other parts of the Republic and with Brazil and Argentina by river steamers plying on the Paraguay River.

Commercial Inactivity Prevails—Prospective Purchasers of American Goods.

Commercial conditions in Concepcion at present are, as in all other cities of the Republic, in a state of stagnation. Merchants there say that there has never been such a period of commercial inactivity. The depreciation in the value of the paper currency of the country has reduced the purchasing power of their customers to a minimum, and the closing down of many industries has deprived them of a very considerable trade.

The two principal merchants of Concepcion (names and addresses obtainable from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 66629), both of whom do a general wholesale and retail business, say that they are beginning to investigate products of the United States with a view to making future purchases there. They say, however, that business conditions preclude any extensive purchases at this time.

The most important lines handled by these firms are: Hardware, cutlery, agricultural implements, cotton and other piece goods, comestibles, beverages, notions, hats, shoes, stationery and other paper goods, and necessities in general. Correspondence with these firms, as with all firms in this Republic, should be in Spanish, as should catalogues for distribution here.

Principal Industries—Some Leading Companies.

The principal industries in the country surrounding Concepcion are cattle raising and lumber. There is also a considerable trade between Concepcion and points on the border between Brazil and Paraguay, the goods being carried in wagons from Concepcion.

A company known as the Compañía Industrial y Comercial Norte del Paraguay, capitalized at 1,500,000 Argentine gold pesos (\$1,347,500 United States currency) is engaged in developing the resources of the country to the northeast of Concepcion, between that city and the Brazilian State of Matto Grosso. This company is at present operating a sawmill on the Paraguay River in the suburbs of Concepcion. It has also constructed and is operating a railway 1-meter (3.28 feet) gauge, between Concepcion and the town of Horqueta, a distance of 42 kilometers (26 miles). This railway is used for passenger service and to carry products of the country to Concepcion for export. Lumber is the principal freight. It is planned to extend this railway to the border of the Brazilian State of Matto Grosso, opening up the country along the way and giving an outlet on the Paraguay River for products from Matto Grosso.

At San Salvador, about 40 hours from Asuncion, on the east side of the Paraguay River, is the largest meat-packing establishment in Paraguay. The capital invested is German; it is managed by an

American, and much of the machinery used is of American manufacture. The plant can handle about 300 animals per day, the principal products being canned tongue, corned beef, and beef extract. Many by-products are also exported. Practically all the products of this establishment are exported to European markets.

This plant is not in operation at present on account of a lack of materials, principally tin. It is probable that such articles may be imported by this company from the United States.

Quebracho—Extract Plants.

At various points on the upper Paraguay River are situated five plants for the extraction of the tanning fluid from quebracho logs. The process is similar to the manufacture of sugar. The capital invested in the plants is Argentine and German. Practically all the machinery used is of German manufacture.

During 1912 these plants closed down. Since the beginning of the war the price of extract has practically quadrupled, three of these plants have resumed operations, and it is probable that the other two will soon follow. The closing down of these plants was, no doubt, one of the causes of the financial crisis from which this country has been suffering, as a conservative estimate puts the gold currency brought into the country for the operation of the five plants at \$105,000 per month.

The New York & Paraguay Co.

At Puerto Pinasco, on the Chaco or western side of the Paraguay River, the New York & Paraguay Co. owns 200 leagues (926,625 acres) of quebracho timberlands. This company owns a large sawmill, which is not, however, in operation. Since the beginning of the recent activity in quebracho extract the company sold to two of the extract plants its large supply of cut quebracho logs. Its activities at present consist in hauling these logs from interior points to the river for shipment. In this work a railway of 42 kilometers (26 miles) owned by the company is used. On the company's lands there are about 12,000 head of cattle, the land affording excellent pasturage. The capital invested in this company is American; it is capitalized at \$1,500,000.

Cattle Raising the Basic Industry—Present Difficulties and Future Prospects.

Cattle raising is the really basic industry of northern Paraguay. It is the industry through which this section of the Republic will be developed and the one offering the largest and most attractive field for foreign capital.

The cattle of Paraguay are of good-sized frame, but light in weight. They are better suited for canning than freezing. Few attempts have been made to improve the native breed, the principal reason for this being the prevalence of the garapato, or cattle tick, whose activities cause great loss among cattle not acclimated.

Land for cattle raising may be bought for about \$8,000 to \$16,000 per league (4,633½ acres in a Paraguayan league) on the eastern side of the Paraguay River, the price depending on proximity to the river. On the Chaco or western side of the river land suitable for cattle raising may be bought for \$3,000 to \$6,000 per league.

On both sides of the river there is abundant pasturage. It is estimated that one league of land will pasture 500 to 800 head of cattle. The climate permits outdoor pasturing during the entire year. Practically all the land now stocked with cattle is fenced, fencing costing about \$1,000 to \$1,500 per league.

Some of the difficulties encountered in cattle raising here are the prevalence of ticks and of the ura (an insect that lays eggs in the hides of the cattle); the scarcity of fresh water in parts of the Chaco country and the occasional floods in the Chaco in which many cattle are drowned; the scarcity of efficient labor; the lack of transportation facilities within the Republic and high freight rates to the exterior; the uncertainty sometimes found in land titles; and similar conditions.

In spite of the difficulties, many of which will disappear with the development of the cattle industry on a large scale, the northern part of Paraguay offers a field for the cattle business worthy of investigation. It is, however, for the investor with large capital rather than for the man of limited means, since the development attendant on entering the cattle business there would be expensive at the beginning.

TOY TRADE OF SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 8.]

An exposition of toys, games, and sporting articles of Spanish manufacture is now being held in Barcelona, organized by an association of toy makers of this city.

Although this Kingdom ranks after France and Germany among European countries in the manufacture of toys, Spain has none the less been a large importer in this line. During 1913, the latest year for which applicable statistics are available, toys to the value of \$250,876 were imported into Spain. Germany contributed \$177,659 worth of these goods; France, \$49,653; Great Britain, \$11,103; while the United States, standing fourth in the list, furnished high-class toys valued at \$4,455. Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, and Italy also exported toys to Spain in small amounts.

Manufacturing Centers—Exports.

As some of these sources of supply are now closed by reason of the war, Spanish manufacturers are making an effort to augment their output in order to meet the domestic demand. The principal centers for the manufacture of toys and sporting articles in Spain are Barcelona and Valencia. Factories of lesser importance are scattered through Andalusia, Aragon, and Castile. The export of toys from Spain amounted in 1913 to \$91,060. Cuba has been Spain's leading customer, having taken in 1913 toys valued at \$24,744. Argentina followed with purchases of \$14,004 worth; the Canary Islands, \$11,425; France, \$10,892; and Turkey, \$6,319. The United States bought Spanish toys to the value of \$4,843.

The value of toys imported into Spain in 1913 was greater than in 1912, when only \$183,863 worth was entered. The export figures for 1913 show a decline, \$145,225 worth having been consigned to foreign markets in 1912, or \$54,000 more than in 1913.

TANNING MATERIALS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Vice Consul Eugene M. Lamb, Johannesburg, July 29.]

The steady exhaustion of the world's supply of tanning materials, coupled with an increasing demand, lends new importance to the industry in those countries where it is capable of expansion. South Africa is one of these, for the wattle, sumac, "elandsboontjes," bastard sumac, and mangrove could all be produced here upon a commercial scale.

The bastard sumac, the least important of the varieties named, is found in the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, the highlands of Natal, and, though less frequently, in Southern and Northern Rhodesia. As the plant contains but a low percentage of tannin, it is doubtful whether it could profitably be exported.

Results of Experiments with "Elandsboontjes."

"Elandsboontjes" (*Elephantorrhiza burchellii*, leguminosæ) is found in great abundance in the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, and in the uplands of Natal. The roots of "elandsboontjes" have been used for many years by the Boers for tanning, though it is said that the red color which this plant imparts to the leather, together with its tendency to render the leather unduly soft, reduces its value as a tanning material.

In his annual report for 1904-5 the Director of Agriculture, after describing certain experiments that had been carried on by his department, said:

The following results indicate that the roots of *Elephantorrhiza burchellii* form a fairly satisfactory tanning material for local use, but that it is doubtful whether it would pay to export it. As a general rule it is not remunerative to export materials containing less than 30 per cent of tannin unless, like sumac, they possess some particularly valuable characteristic not readily procurable in other tanning materials.

It is possible that it might pay to prepare a tanning extract from the roots of *Elephantorrhiza burchellii* for export, but there are several difficulties in the way of doing this. The roots contain a considerable quantity of a reducing sugar which would find its way into the extract, and the latter would, therefore, be liable to ferment, and for that reason would be difficult to store or transport, especially in hot countries. Further, the red coloring matter present in the roots would also appear in the extract, and this would, to some extent, detract from its value as a tanning agent, especially in Europe. It would be possible to free the extract from this red coloring matter by bleaching it with sulphur dioxide or by the addition of sodium meta-bisulphite, but there is a certain amount of prejudice among tanners in European countries against the use of extract bleached in this way, and it is not advisable to adopt this plan if it can be avoided.

Wattle Bark an Important Product.

The production of wattle bark is an industry of much importance in South Africa. The bark is gathered from several species of acacia in Natal, Orange River Colony, and the Transvaal. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 12, 1915. An interesting account of wattle cultivation in Natal appeared in the issue for Jan. 30, 1908.] Its most extensive use is in tanning heavy leathers, but it furnishes as well a full, soft finish with calfskin and can be used advantageously for the production of light leathers. Leather tanned with wattle bark has a faint reddish tinge, the color darkening slightly upon exposure to light, but not more so than that of leather tanned with oak or hemlock bark or extract.

Exports of tanning materials (wattle bark) from the Union of South Africa for the calendar year 1914 totaled \$1,393,761, being the value of 130,216,826 pounds. For the year preceding the value was \$1,505,350; for 1912, \$1,377,267; for 1911, \$1,409,123; for 1910, \$1,067,870. The distribution of the shipments during 1913 and 1914 was:

Exported to—	1913		1914	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
United States	223,246	\$2,604	267,101	\$2,506
Australia	3,671,278	86,843	7,156,368	67,508
Austria-Hungary	320,298	9,227	739,608	7,743
Belgium	900,109	10,575	419,037	6,789
Egypt	586,959	5,485	1,344,245	13,135
France	2,124,703	20,619	1,101,492	10,911
Germany	30,745,850	332,470	25,904,174	295,567
Italy	169,720	1,757	231,199	2,373
Russia	2,018,145	22,138	708,961	9,616
United Kingdom	99,203,808	1,013,166	92,276,338	977,057
All other	46,622	466	68,303	656
Total	145,717,738	1,505,350	130,216,826	1,393,761

South Africa's purchases of foreign tanning materials are not important.

New Extraction Process.

A matter of no little interest is the recent invention of a method of tannin extraction from wattle bark. The method heretofore employed involved the use of leaching vats. The new method comprises a primary crushing of the bark by a Krojenski crusher. Following this treatment the bark is passed through a series of heavy-pressure bronze rollers. The important feature of this rolling is the moistening of the bark with warm water or with water and alcohol prior to its passage beneath the rolls.

Following a practical test of this method in the Johannesburg laboratories of the inventor, representative samples were taken of the green bark as used in the process and of the final liquor thus obtained. This liquid was found to have a specific gravity of 1.10 and was of a much better color than the liquids usually obtained by treating bark in leaching vats. It is claimed by the inventor that equally satisfactory results are obtained when dry or weathered bark is employed.

A company has been organized for the commercial utilization of the new process. It is necessary to add, however, that owing to the war the arrival of the necessary equipment has been delayed, though it is expected that the plant will be in operation within a year. In the meantime, interested persons are directed to communicate with Bilbrough & Frew, Marshall Square Buildings, Johannesburg, South Africa, who will be pleased to furnish such information as may be possible and appropriate.

The publication of a decree in the Official Gazette of Brazil, permitting the Texas Co. (South American) (Ltd.) to operate in that country, is announced in a dispatch from Consul General Gottschalk at Rio de Janeiro. This is the company that operates in Mexico as the Texas Oil Co. Its present purpose is to deal in illuminating oil and gasoline, but not in fuel oils.

TRADE NOTES FROM COSTA RICA.

[Consul Chester Donaldson, Port Limon, Sept. 25.]

Tin Receptacles Required for Shipments of Candy.

The candy imported into this district annually has a total valuation of about \$25,000. At least 80 per cent of the amount received is intended for the markets in the interior of the country. About 50 per cent of the imports come from England, 30 per cent from the United States, 10 per cent from Germany, and the remaining 10 per cent from France, Italy, and other countries. Candy for export to this district should be packed in tin cans or boxes, hermetically sealed. The hot, moist climate of this coast makes pasteboard useless, with the result that the candy spoils before it can be cleared from the customhouse and placed on sale.

Blank Books Shipped Largely from United States.

The importations of blank books received here, including supplies used to simplify accounts, have an annual value of about \$10,000, of which 50 per cent come from the United States, 24 per cent from Germany, 10 per cent from England, 7 per cent from Spain, and the balance from France and other countries. Most of the larger commercial houses use supplies required for simplified accounting systems in their daily transactions.

[Lists of importers of candy, blank books, and stationery at Port Limon may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67116.]

FOREIGN RAILWAY EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED.

With the object of placing in convenient and accessible form before persons in this country who are interested in or responsible for railway materials, the United States Bureau of Standards, in connection with its investigation of failures of such material, has obtained, through the courtesy of the State Department, copies of specifications for railway material—rails, axles, wheels, and tires—used in several European countries. These specifications are given in full, together with a digest and discussion, in a forthcoming circular of information from the bureau. Available data concerning the types and weights of foreign railway equipment, together with those concerning derailments and accidents abroad, are included in the circular.

Copies of the publication will be furnished on application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES START PROMISING TRADE.

Commercial Agent E. C. Porter, of the New York branch of the Bureau, is apprised by an American manufacturing firm that it has just obtained fair-sized sample orders from Spain through the use of a foreign trade opportunity in *COMMERCE REPORTS* calling for electrical and hardware lines. It adds that the new connection seems very promising. The initial orders through trade opportunities are to be regarded as the entering wedge for gaining a large export trade.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Handbags and suit cases, No. 19000.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a firm in his territory would like to receive catalogues, and price lists, in English currency, for women's handbags, and suit cases for both men and women, the former retailing from \$2.17 up to \$10.21 and the latter from \$7.30 to \$14.60, in all sizes from 20 to 28 inches. Both nickel and brass fittings are used, but nickel fittings are preferred. C. i. f. quotations are desired. The firm is accustomed to a 2½ per cent discount monthly.

Shoe, printer's, bookbinder's, and paper-box manufacturing supplies, No. 19001.—A commercial organization in the United States informs the Bureau that a man in Spain wishes the names and addresses of manufacturers of the following lines: Shoe-manufacturing supplies, printer's, bookbinder's, and paper-box manufacturing supplies. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Laboratory supplies, No. 19002.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Siberia that a firm in his district desires the names and addresses of American manufacturers and exporters of visual teaching and laboratory accessories for schools, such as flasks, retorts, testing tubes, etc., for chemical study, physical apparatus for general mechanic, hydrostatic, optic, magnetic, and electric work. Catalogues and prices are requested. Correspondence should be in Russian.

Hosiery, No. 19003.—An American consular officer in France writes that a merchant in his district wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of silk hosiery for women and children, with a view to buying these goods on a cash basis. Correspondence should be in French.

Jewelry, collar buttons, and pin novelties, No. 19004.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in India that a man in his district has requested catalogues, price lists, and terms of sole agency for the sale of cheap jewelry, collar buttons, and pin novelties.

Hosiery, etc., No. 19005.—An American consular officer in Italy writes that a firm in his district, with three traveling men and a well-known clientele in Italy, the colonies, Malta, and Tunis, desires to get into touch with American manufacturers desiring a representative for Italy and the colonies, of silk socks and stockings, medium grades, for men and women; also shoe polishes. References are given. Correspondence should be in Italian or French.

Bentwood chairs, cigarettes, clocks and watches, etc., No. 19006.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Africa that a wholesale and retail merchant in his district desires to receive catalogues with prices and discounts on bentwood chairs, cigarettes, lamps, mirrors, padlocks, scissors and shears, spectacles, stationery, steel trunks, and watches and clocks. Only the cheaper grades of these articles are desired. Correspondence may be in English.

Balata, No. 19007.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in South America, which desires to be placed in touch with buyers of block balata. It states that it has a ton (2,240 pounds) or more to dispose of weekly. Payments would have to be made against shipping documents.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 2748.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 9, 1915, for furnishing the following material. Firms interested therein should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving the schedule numbers desired: Schedule 8929, liner steel forgings; schedule 8930, library books; schedule 8931, cupro nickel shell bands; schedule 8932, 40-gallon steam jacketed kettles, and select white pine; and schedule 8933, cocoa, lemon extract, vanilla extract, split peas, and pickles. Bids will also be received until November 16, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8926, sheet metal bulletin boards; schedule 8924, furnishing and installing electric-driven freight elevator; schedule 8935, Roentgen-ray machines; schedule 8936, rolled phosphor bronze; schedule 8937, quadrant compensating davits; schedule 8938, burnishing and trimming lathe; and schedule 8942, steel pulleys. Bids will be received until November 23, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8927, gasoline; schedule 8928, gasoline and distillate; schedule 8943, rubber packings, wrought pipe, steel sheets, and screws; schedule 8944, bar brass, brass tubing and copper tubing; schedule 8945, buoy anchors, tin boxes, wooden boxes, wooden deck beam boxes, cork buoys, metal cases, and metallic jars; and schedule 8946, hoisting motor and controlling appliances, and ribbed steel floor plates. Bids will also be received until November 30, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8940, motors for aeroplanes; and schedule 8941, cloth sheet asbestos metallic packing, compressed fiber sheet asbestos packing, flax packing, sheet packing, rubber, cloth and wire insertion sheet packing, spiral gland packing, and Tucks packing.

Lard and ham, No. 2749.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, Kansas City, Mo., or at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, Omaha, Nebr., until November 5, 1915, for furnishing and delivering lard and ham.

Construction work, No. 2750.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 16, 1915, for a new lookout gallery in the United States courthouse and post office at Dallas, Tex. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the Washington office or at the office of the custodian of the site at Dallas.

Construction work, No. 2751.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1915, for constructing one reinforced concrete power house, one reinforced concrete operating building, and one wooden double quarters for chief operators, at the Naval Station, Pearl Harbor. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., or to the commandant of the above-named naval station.

Docking and repairing lighthouse tender, No. 2752.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Charleston, S. C., for docking and repairing the Lighthouse Tender *Mangrove*. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Subsistence stores, No. 2753.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, United States Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until November 2, 1915, for furnishing and delivering fish, corn meal, potatoes, prunes, evaporated apples and peaches, coffee, sugar, vinegar, pickles, salt and pepper, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, lard, butter, oleomargarine, sirup, bacon, cheese, ham, malted milk, oatmeal, preserves, and sausage.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 255 Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 30 1915

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NEW AMERICAN-CHINESE STEAMSHIP LINE.

Mr. Philip Manson, of New York, recently returned from China, where he concluded arrangements for the organization of the Pacific & Eastern Steamship Co. (Inc.), which will operate steamship services, under the American flag, between China, the Philippines, and the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the United States. The company is a joint American and Chinese enterprise and has just been incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. It will commence business with a capital of \$2,000,000. Half of the capital has been subscribed by American and half by Chinese. The directorate consists of seven members, four Americans and three Chinese.

The American interests are represented by F. Mertens's Sons, of Cumberland, Md., and Washington, D. C. The Chinese interests are represented by Chinese capitalists in Shanghai and Canton. The president of the company is Mr. John Mitchell, jr., of the firm of F. Mertens's Sons. Mr. Mitchell is also president of the Washington and Southern Bank, of Washington, D. C. Mr. Philip Manson is managing director. The company will buy or charter steamers so that sailings may begin as soon as possible and will build new steamers to be delivered as quickly as possible. The principal office of the company in the United States is in New York; the principal office in China is in Shanghai.

MICROSTRUCTURAL CHANGES IN ANNEALED BRONZE.

The properties of cast steel may be greatly improved as a result of refining the grain by proper annealing. The changes occurring in cast brasses and bronzes upon annealing are by many metal workers regarded in the same light. A study has just been completed by the United States Bureau of Standards of the annealing of bronze, using the commercially important alloy zinc bronze (copper 88, tin 10, zinc 2) as a type. The results show that bronze is very different in its behavior from steel, and shows no recrystallization or grain refining unless it has been previously cold worked as by rolling or hammering.

Copies of this publication may be obtained by application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

SPANISH CANARY SEED AT LOWER PRICES.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 10.]

While canary seed is not one of the most important exports of the Seville consular district, which has always been famous for its exportations of cork, olives, and olive oil, yet the fact that the seed produced in this district is said to be the finest in the world and commands a higher price than any secured from other sources is worthy of attention.

England is the great market for Spanish canary seed, as it is for all seed of this nature from other countries. English market circulars usually quote prices on 14 qualities of birdseed. These quotations show that the finest qualities all come from Spain—the smaller and inferior grades from Cordoba and some northern districts, the finer from the Provinces of Seville and Cadiz.

Local dealers state that practically the entire export of canary seed from this country comes from the Seville consular district. The best products are from the tracts around the cities of Jerez de la Frontera and Lebrija. No official data are obtainable as to the extent of acreage planted in canary seed in this district, or the annual production, but one exporter estimates the annual production at between 4,000 and 5,000 tons. Some of this seed is used in Spain, but the bulk of it goes to England, and is regularly quoted on the Mark Lane market where, on account of its size and appearance, it always obtains a much higher price than the Moroccan, River Plate, or Turkish seed.

Canary Seed Classed as Luxury in War Time.

The trade at present is practically paralyzed. British importers are somewhat overstocked, and on account of the war and the fact that canary seed is considered in the nature of a luxury, there is not the same call for it in England and elsewhere as in normal times. Current prices here, which may be called nominal, are now low. The latest quotations are 34 to 36 pesetas silver per 100 kilos (\$6.24 to \$6.60 for 220.46 pounds). These figures are for the uncleaned seed, on the wagon, unpacked.

Formerly canary seed was shipped from this market in single jute bags, but owing to losses in transit, and through the influence of the British importers and their agents here, it has become customary to pack the seed in double jute bags, which are manufactured in Seville mills. Freights are high. Exporters of seed and other commodities state that the importers in the United States would get better rates by securing quotations from the agents of the lines in American ports.

Payment for seed is usually effected by letter of credit in Seville, drafts being drawn against such credits, and quotations are usually made on the basis of payment prior to shipment. Reductions are sometimes possible with firm counter offers, but with America would have to be made by cable. The use of delayed telegrams, known generally as "L. C. D." dispatches, is possible in this business. By this system half rates are charged for delayed messages in plain language. Prior to the war it was possible to make drafts against importing houses, but the banks now generally refuse to discount papers, although it is possible that some firms might be able to use sight drafts. Payment in Seville, however, is generally demanded, as in the case of olives and other such commodities exported from this city.

Prepared to Handle Orders from United States.

The address of a British exporter is forwarded. This exporter is prepared to handle orders direct from the United States and make quotations by mail or cable as directed.

The last statistics issued by the Spanish customs give the exportations of canary seed from Seville to Spanish ports as 1,013,104 pounds and to foreign ports as 2,465,525 pounds. It is understood that practically all of the latter amount was shipped to British ports. The closing of the British market and the general tendency toward lower prices offer an opportunity for American importers to buy Spanish seed direct rather than through British dealers.

[The name of an exporter of canary seed at Seville may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67,178.]

CANADIAN GRAIN SHIPMENTS FOR 1914-15.

[Consul Henry P. Starrett, Fort William, Ontario, Sept. 30.]

For the purpose of statistical comparison, the Canadian grain crop year closes on August 31 each year. The Dominion Government Grain Commission has recently issued the following data relative to the grain shipments from the twin ports of Fort William and Port Arthur to eastern Canadian and American ports during the past crop year, in comparison with the figures for the previous year:

	1913-14	1914-15
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
To Canadian ports.....	93, 578, 731	73, 225, 099
To American ports.....	93, 447, 488	27, 848, 221
To England (direct).....		121, 481
Lost en route (wrecked).....	947, 549	
Total shipments.....	187, 973, 768	101, 194, 801

During the latter year the total number of cargoes was 712, of which 617 were carried in Canadian vessels and 95 in American.

The figures for the grain crop of 1915-16 do not appear in the above statement, as the shipment of this season's grain out of terminal elevators had not commenced.

PORTUGAL'S BUDGET FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 7.]

Portugal has included in the appropriations for 1915-16 the sum of 1,050,000 escudos (about \$750,000 United States gold) for the cost of two submarines of wide radius of action, the total allotment to the Ministry of Marine being 3,600,000 escudos. The budget allowance for the Ministry of War is 20,000,000 escudos; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 100,000 escudos; Ministry of Public Works, 900,000 escudos; Ministry of the Colonies, 5,400,000 escudos. At present exchange the escudo is worth 70 to 72 cents United States gold.

According to the budget, the receipts for the fiscal year are estimated at 78,043,630 escudos, of which 72,857,012 escudos is ordinary and 5,186,618 escudos extraordinary revenue. The ordinary and extraordinary expenses of the Government for 1915-16 are placed at 88,645,951 escudos.

COMMERCIAL AGENT TO CONFER WITH LUMBER DEALERS.

Commercial Agent F. H. Smith, of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has just returned to the United States from an extensive trip to the Far East and Australia and New Zealand, where he has been investigating the possibilities of marketing increased quantities of American lumber. Considerable lumber from the United States is already used in those sections, and the problem confronting producers is the increasing of this trade rather than its introduction. Mr. Smith has made himself thoroughly familiar with the requirements of the markets and the obstacles still in the way of increased exportation from this country. He is now in Seattle, making his headquarters at the branch office of the Bureau in the Alaska Building, but expects to leave on November 1 for a trip to the principal centers of the lumber trade on the west coast to confer personally with lumber producers, lumber dealers, and officials of associations connected with the sale of west-coast lumber. He will be in and around Portland until November 5 or 6, in San Francisco and vicinity to about November 13, and in Spokane November 14. He will also stop at Chicago on his way to Washington, D. C., where he will report about November 18 or 19.

Dealers and others interested in the exporting of lumber can interview Mr. Smith at the offices of the Bureau in Seattle, San Francisco, and Chicago, and can communicate with him at the other places mentioned through the local chambers of commerce.

OTTAWA TO BUY STREET-CLEANING EQUIPMENT.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul, Ottawa, Canada, Sept. 21.]

It is probable that experiments will be conducted by the city of Ottawa next year, with a view to purchasing vacuum street cleaners and automobile-pressure flushers. American manufacturers who may be interested should address the city engineer, Ottawa, Canada.

The city has 42 miles of pavement, mostly asphalt, which is cleaned daily under the supervision of the city engineering department. In the cleaning operations 45 sprinklers and 3 flushers of the air-pressure type are used. In addition, several pieces of old-style equipment are employed. No mechanical sweepers, street-car sprinklers, or automobile sprinklers or flushers are owned or used by the city. Ninety "white wings" are employed, and are provided with the usual wheel buckets, brushers, and scrapers.

During the winter months horse-drawn snow plows are used for removing surplus snow from sidewalks and from business streets not occupied by street car tracks. The snow is then packed by use of team-drawn levelers. On streets having car tracks, car sweepers are used for removing surplus snow, the leveling being done by street-car winged plows.

Most of the equipment now in use by the engineering department is manufactured in the city shops. Experiments with mechanical sweepers are reported to have been unsatisfactory.

Peat is being used as fertilizer in greater quantities in the United States—\$350,000 worth in 1914, against \$170,000 worth in 1913.

ZACATON GRASS FOR PAPER STOCK.

Attention is called to the possibilities of zacaton grass in the manufacture of paper in a new professional paper of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 309. Zacaton grass extends from California and Texas southward to the Argentine Andes. It grows most profusely, however, in the mountain regions east and west of the City of Mexico, where it is harvested for the sake of its roots. These are made into brushes of various sorts, and for this reason the zacaton plant is frequently known by the common English names of broomroot grass, wire grass, and rice-root grass. At the present time the tops of the plant are allowed to go to waste. It is from these that there is reason to believe that a satisfactory paper-making material may be developed.

An acre of grass should yield at least 3 tons of tops. The plant is a perennial one, the growth being almost entirely from self-sown seed. Unless checked by fire, cultivation, or the harvesting of the roots, the grass will soon cover a field solidly, and it is not uncommon to find many square miles densely covered with the growth. The range can be profitably gone over for roots every third year.

The Soda Process—A Good Printing Paper.

Laboratory tests of this grass conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture show that it can be chemically reduced to paper stock by the soda process more easily and with less expense than is necessary to reduce poplar wood. The same processes and methods which are employed for the manufacture of pulp from poplar wood are quite suitable for the treatment of zacaton, but in place of the wood-sawing, chipping, and screening machinery a grass duster is necessary.

The paper manufactured from the stock has proved as satisfactory in physical tests as a first-grade, machine-finished printing paper. It has, moreover, a very satisfactory appearance and feeling. For bleaching, however, the experiments showed that more bleaching powder was required than with poplar stock.

The percentage of air-dry fiber obtained from the zacaton grass appears to be somewhat less than that from poplar wood, but practically equal to that of esparto. Forty-three per cent of air-dry fiber was obtained in the Government experiments from air-dried grass, while the fiber yield from poplar wood ranges from 46 to 48 per cent.

No estimate of the cost of manufacture is made in the bulletin already mentioned. A rapid increase, however, in the demand for paper and the increasing likelihood that the raw material that is necessary for its manufacture will not be sufficient to meet this demand makes the subject worthy of further investigation by the trade. It has been estimated that the growth of wood in the United States is being removed at the rate of 36 cubic feet per acre each year, while the natural increase is at the rate of 12 cubic feet per acre. In other words, wood is being used three times as fast as it grows. The consequence is, of course, a continual increase in the price of raw material, and the desirability of finding some substitute is obvious.

Lime hydrating plants in the United States increased from 30 in 1906 to 82 in 1914, and their output from \$479,000 to \$2,240,000.

FRESH HALIBUT LANDED AT NORTH PACIFIC PORTS.

[Commercial Agent William B. Henderson, Seattle, Wash.]

Arrivals of fresh halibut at North Pacific ports during September, 1915, were as follows: By independent schooners at Seattle, 1,316,611 pounds; by company schooners at Seattle, 985,000 pounds; by regular steamers at Seattle, 298,300 pounds; arrivals at Oregon and Washington ports, 18,000 pounds; arrivals at Ketchikan, Alaska, 305,000 pounds; arrivals at Vancouver, B. C., 1,003,000 pounds; arrivals at Steveston, B. C., 467,000 pounds; arrivals at Prince Rupert, B. C., 2,090,000 pounds, making a total of 6,482,911 pounds.

The following table shows the Puget Sound halibut receipts by months for the first 9 months of 1915, as compared with 1914:

Month.	1914	1915	Month.	1914	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
January	2,600,250	1,228,150	July	3,255,000	3,058,100
February	2,321,700	2,534,300	August	4,366,950	2,290,400
March	3,497,850	2,721,400	September	3,752,425	2,503,911
April	4,039,550	3,463,600	Total	33,116,575	26,213,911
May	4,585,600	4,556,500			
June	4,728,000	3,151,000			

LABELING AMERICAN EXPORT GOODS.

[Vice Consul Gustave J. Barrett, Shanghai, China, Sept. 1.]

On account of the restrictions of certain of the governments engaged in the European war, local firms have in some cases found it necessary to certify to the country of origin or manufacture of foreign merchandise which they desire to reexport from China to other countries.

For the general purpose of simplifying commercial relations in this particular, it has been suggested by local merchants that so far as possible manufacturers in the United States appropriately mark or label their goods so they may readily be distinguished as of American origin or manufacture. It is thought that such marking might tend to protect American firms to some extent against trade-mark infringements, and it would apparently constitute an additional and effective form of advertising. Some firms have already adopted the slogan "Made in U. S. A.," which seems to have met with general approval by American commercial representatives in Shanghai.

RELATION OF EARTH RESISTANCE TO ELECTROLYSIS.

A paper on "Earth resistance and its relation to the electrolysis of underground structures," published by the United States Bureau of Standards, deals with the factors which influence the resistivity of the soil and with the effects of soil resistance on the leakage of currents from street railway lines using the rails as return conductors.

Three methods of determining the specific resistance of soil are given and the results of a large number of measurements are tabulated. The principal factors which influence soil resistance are described and their effects on the results of electrolysis surveys and on the escape of currents from street railway tracks are discussed.

Copies of this publication may be obtained by applying to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**CANADA.**

[Vice Consul Robert M. Newcomb, Victoria, British Columbia, Oct. 12.]

Construction Work on Vancouver Island.

Building and other construction work in the Victoria district has dwindled to small proportions. No private work of any magnitude has been undertaken since the outbreak of the war. Some large enterprises which were well under way during 1914 have been completed, but in the majority of cases the work has been dropped altogether and much money and labor wasted on preliminary work.

The Dominion Government will shortly call for tenders for wharf sheds on the local Government wharf at an approximate cost of \$250,000. The Provincial Government has voted money for construction work in this consular district as follows: Government building at Duncan, \$25,000; prison farm, Saanich, \$20,000; Provincial Normal School, Victoria (furnishings), \$8,000; roads, streets, bridges, and wharves at Esquimalt, \$36,000; at Nanaimo, \$9,000; at Saanich, \$5,500.

[The vice consul sent a list of proposed new work which involves expenditures of \$12,000 to \$1,000,000 for churches, industrial plants, apartments, etc.; also of 14 buildings under construction, which are to cost \$12,000 to \$2,000,000, together with the names of the owners, architects, and contractors. The lists may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its branch offices; refer to File 67625.]

CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 11.]

Dredging Macao Harbor.

During the year 1912 the Government of Macao, the Portuguese colony at the mouth of the Pearl River opposite Hongkong, carried out a scheme for dredging a channel for river steamers entering the harbor of Macao, the work having been done by a firm of contractors of Hongkong, in line with the urgent demands of the trade of the port. Macao was the first foreign settlement in China and in the earlier days its roadstead was freely entered by oversea ships of the day. Later as ships engaged in the trade grew larger in average size and as silt from the river filled the harbor and channels entering it, practically no oversea ships have been able to enter and for a time it became difficult for the river steamers engaged in the trade between Macao and Canton and Hongkong to make the port. At that time a channel 4 miles long and 45 yards wide at the center of its sides was dredged as the minimum requirement of the port, the depth at the ebb of spring tides only allowing vessels drawing not to exceed 11 feet to enter.

Plans for further improving the port have been completed for some time, and within the past few months the Government of the colony has acquired a dredge boat at Singapore which, with two attendant tugboats, has arrived in Hongkong and is being overhauled preparatory to commencing a comprehensive and continuous dredging of the port with a view of not only increasing the present channel to a depth enabling the largest river boats to enter freely, but also eventually permitting the entrance of overseas shipping as in the earlier days of the port. The plan contemplates the immediate

widening and deepening of the channel constructed three years ago so as to accommodate vessels drawing more water and at the same time to permit freer movement of vessels now entering the port. It is anticipated that the work can be continued from year to year without further interruption.

[Consul General P. S. Heintzleman, Mukden, Sept. 22.]

Railway Construction in Manchuria.

The construction of the projected Ssuningkai-Chengchiatum railway will be started by the South Manchuria Railway Co. at the Ssuningkai end in the spring of 1916.

Permission has been granted by the Chinese authorities for building a light rail hand-car line between Ssuningkai and Maimaikai, about 8 miles in length. The chief of police of Maimaikai, the prefect, and the chairman of the commercial and agricultural guilds of Ssuningkai are among the founders of the company which is to operate the new enterprise, capitalized at \$20,000. It is planned to complete the construction of the line before the end of the present year.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, Sept. 30.]

New Telephone Building.

This office recently transmitted plans and specifications for the construction of a telephone system for the Wuhan cities. [See Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 17819, in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 9, 1915.] As a preliminary to the installation of the system tenders are being invited from the local building contractors for the erection of new premises for the Chinese Government telephone administration building, which is to be located in the British Concession, Hankow. Plans have been prepared by Atkinson & Dallas (Ltd.), Pao Shun Road, British Concession, Hankow, and it is understood that to-day is the limit for filing applications. As soon as the award of the contract is made the name and address of the contractor will be furnished to American firms represented in China which are likely to be interested, and also transmitted to Washington.

So far as it is able to ascertain, it is not likely that there will be required any considerable amount of foreign material, though there will be a small amount of timbers and iron for the reinforced concrete work. American firms represented in China handling these articles have been advised.

CHOSEN.

[Press extract from Consul General Ransford S. Miller, Seoul, Sept. 1.]

Gensan Harbor Works.

The commencement of the construction of the new harbor works at Gensan was celebrated on August 15. This enterprise, it is estimated, will cost the Government \$778,440, covering five consecutive years, beginning April last. On completion of the works two steamers of 3,000 tons each will be able to moor at the pier at the same time, and inside the breakwater the port will have an anchorage of some 98 acres in two divisions, one of which will be 21 feet deep and the other 24 feet deep. The railway will then be extended to the wharf. The plan includes the reclamation of 20 acres of the sea front.

Drainage in Seoul.

At a recent meeting of the Municipal Council of Seoul it was decided to commence the installation of a city drainage system. It is to be undertaken during the next fiscal year, the whole undertaking to be spread over a period of seven years, the estimated cost, \$500,000, to be met by a grant of \$200,000 from the central Government, \$50,000 from the Provincial Government, and by taxes on the inhabitants. This work when completed will add much to the attractiveness of Seoul as a city.

Irrigation Works.

The supplementary budget for the Government General of Chosen for the current fiscal year, as lately adopted by the Imperial Diet, carried \$20,000 for investigations into irrigation and riparian works. Mr. Mochiji, Director of the Bureau of Public Works, states that, with a view to laying down a fundamental scheme both for riparian and irrigation works, the authorities have decided to institute investigations into all the great rivers and their tributaries in this country, except the Yalu and Tumen. Three surveying corps have already been ordered to the Provinces for the purpose, and of the 13 main rivers to be investigated surveying work has been finished along the entire stream of the Chongchon and a greater portion of the Naktong.

It is impossible to carry out thorough investigation in any brief space of time, and this year only rough surveying work will be accomplished. It is well known that in the rainy season almost all rivers in Chosen are flooded, while 80 per cent of the rice fields of the country are provided with no irrigation facilities and have to depend entirely on wet weather for water. It is highly satisfactory that irrigation enterprises are of late being promoted in different places, but these works are necessarily local and the extent of country they serve is limited. It is also not impossible that, though some of these private irrigation works are fairly perfect and considerably assist a certain limited acreage of wet fields, their existence may be found detrimental to other fields or inconsistent with the whole irrigation system of the country, so it is urgent that the investigations started this year should be completed with the quickest possible despatch.

On the completion of the investigation it need scarcely be said that the plan thus laid down on the basis of their results will be carried out, but no decision has yet been reached as to whether it will be executed at State expense or not. Mr. Mochiji adds that his bureau is now drafting a complete set of regulations for irrigation and riparian works, as such are still lacking in Chosen.

INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Sept. 13.]

Waterworks Construction in Southern India.

Supplementing the recent dispatch from this consulate on waterworks construction in southern India [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 19, 1915] additional information has been obtained in regard to other new enterprises as follows:

At Erode a railway junction in Madras Presidency on the South Indian Railway an appropriation of \$16,000 has been granted by the

Government for completing the water-supply scheme there already undertaken but which was postponed. Erode is a junction point for Trichinopoly and is growing in importance as a railroad town.

In British Cochín on the Malabar coast after several unsuccessful attempts to improve the water supply by deep boring, it has now been decided to use the 610 to 618 feet depth where there is a layer of fine sand. During experiments recently undertaken under instructions from the Government it has been found that the water at the new depth is fairly wholesome, and it is understood that a month's continual pumping will lead to an appreciable improvement in the quality of water. If the attempts prove successful, two other tube wells at the same depth will be sunk in the vicinity of the original boring in order to obtain a supply sufficient for the consumption of the whole of Cochín.

PHILIPPINES.

[Manila Daily Bulletin, Sept. 14.]

Many Towns Clamor for New Waterworks.

From all parts of the Philippine Islands requests are being received by the Bureau of Public Works for the installation of waterworks systems, and it is increasingly evident that the great importance of an adequate supply of pure water is realized to-day as never before.

There are but 12 municipalities in the Philippines which now can boast of modern water systems, but this number is large when it is remembered that the work of installation is in nearly all cases the fruit of a very few years. The bureau is even now at work on plans for placing six more municipalities in the waterworks class, and there are indications that they will be busy at similar work for years to come, so keen is the desire to get into line displayed by communities in various Provinces.

Adequate water supply is now being furnished to Manila, Cebu, Vigan, Zamboanga, Siquijor (Bohol), Mambajao (Misamis), Boac (Marinduque), and Coron (Palawan), and work is progressing rapidly on the waterworks system at Taal. The Vigan waterworks was completed at a cost of \$57,500, that at San Pablo cost \$42,500, at Taal \$35,000, at Boac \$4,000, and at Coron \$1,500.

The San Pablo waterworks, construction of which was commenced about a year ago, is now nearly finished. Work on this system has been greatly delayed by the fact that the pipe which was to have been laid in the 2-kilometer gap in the supply pipe line had to be jettisoned, thus making it necessary to wait for a further shipment. The source of the San Pablo system is a large spring located in the foothills, the capacity of which is 2,000,000 gallons for every 24 hours.

Funds are now available for the construction of the waterworks system at Loay, Bohol, and systems have already been proposed for Iloilo, Lucena, Calapan (Mindoro), Lipa (Batangas), and Carcar (Cebu). The waterworks system at Subic, Sorsogon, is now being built, and systems have already been designed for Santa Cruz, Marinduque, and Duero, Bohol. Waterworks for Baguio, and for Pagsanjan, Laguna, and Tubigon, Bohol, are now being studied.

The water flow for all the systems already constructed is conducted by means of the gravity system—with the exception of the Taal waterworks, where a pumping plant will be used, employing Diesel oil engines.

PORTO RICO.

[Harwood Hull, correspondent, San Juan, Oct. 20.]

Bonds for Public Improvements.

The city of San Juan has voted to levy a special tax of twenty-five hundredths of 1 per cent to retire \$1,700,000 public-improvement bonds which it is proposed to issue to provide funds for the improvements.

The bonds are to bear 5 per cent interest, to run 28 years, and are to be offered for sale in the United States. No definite arrangement has yet been made for the marketing of the bonds. The city has a debt limit considerably in excess of the bond issue, proceeds from which will also be used to liquidate all present obligations.

From the proceeds of the bonds it is proposed to make the following public improvements and expenditures:

To construct new water system and mechanical filtration plant to supply San Juan proper and three near-by towns-----	\$684, 286. 92
To construct sewers-----	300, 000. 00
To open, pave, and repave streets and roads and build sidewalks--	412, 000. 00
To erect a city garbage incinerator-----	50, 000. 00
To erect three public laundries-----	45, 000. 00
To repay bonds and loans already advanced for public improvements-----	114, 332. 04
To repay interest on bonds during first semester and other incidentals connected with bond issue-----	94, 381. 04
Total-----	1, 700, 000. 00

Besides the special tax, which is considered ample to take care of all interest and principal payments on the bonds, there will be an annual saving of \$25,000 following the installation of the new water system.

The bonds, aside from having a first lien on city funds, are guaranteed by the Government of Porto Rico, and all interest and principal payments are to be made by the treasurer of Porto Rico.

SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, Aug. 12.]

New Railway Line from Messina, Transvaal, to Delagoa Bay.

There has just been completed the section of the new railway line from Tzaneen to Zoekmakaar, marking an important development in the railways of the central Transvaal by affording a direct means of communication from the eastern to the northern railway lines, this section being the second constructed under an agreement with the Messina Copper Co., under which that company guarantees interest on the capital cost for a period of 10 years. The other railway section, constructed under the agreement, was the extension from Bandler Kop to Messina, which was opened over a year ago. By this new construction through connection has now been effected between Messina and Delagoa Bay, obviating the circuitous route via Pretoria, the distance saved being 262 miles. The estimated cost of the two sections constructed under the agreement was \$3,649,875, and the actual expenditure is said to be well within this amount.

Following are some of the more important particulars concerning this new railway line, as published: Length of line, 56 miles; permanent way material—rails, 6,015-section with steel sleepers; maxi-

mum grade, 1 in 50 (compensated); maximum curve, 7 chains radius; height above sea level, Tzaneen, 2,372 feet; Zoekmakaar, 3,846 feet; survey commenced, December, 1912; survey completed, May, 1913; construction commenced, July, 1913; construction completed, August, 1915.

The line, after leaving Tzaneen, traverses the well known and fertile valley of Duivel's Kloof, where a considerable extent of land is under cultivation, and in this district passes through, or adjacent to, the Tzaneen and Westphalia Estates. The following are the more important river crossings: Groot Letaba, Politsi, Ramadiepe, Koodoo, Middle Letaba.

A striking feature of the route is the severe and continuous ascent from the Middle Letaba River to the high veldt within a few miles of the junction, being a distance of 15 miles, the difference in level being approximately 1,425 feet.

VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 1.]

Road Building—Electric Light Enterprise.

Although road building in Venezuela is not proceeding as rapidly as it was before the war caused such a drop in revenues, work is being actively pushed on five main highways. These are the Carretera de Caracas a La Guaira, Dr. Leonardo Jimenez in charge; the Carretera de Maracay a Ocumare de la Costa, Don Benito Leon Velez in charge; that from Caracas to Guatire, Sr. Don Epifanio Bolza Davila, engineer; that from Villa de Cura to Calobozo, Don Julian Correa and the Carretera del Sur, in charge of Don Lorenzo Gonzalez Villasmil. All may be addressed in care of the Ministerio de Obras Publicas, Caracas.

Sr. J. M. Gonzalez Brito is organizing an electric-light company in Upata, State of Bolivar, and Don Pedro Izaguirre Izaguirre is forming a similar one in Guacara, State of Carabobo.

Telephone System—Paving and Abattoir.

Permission has been granted the Caribbean Petroleum Co. to erect a private telephone system connecting their offices and prospecting outfits.

In San Francisco de Macaire, Guarico, street-paving work has just been begun and a new city slaughterhouse has just been completed. Gen. E. H. Machado is in charge of all public construction work.

Aqueduct, Electric Plant, Sugar Central, Railway, and Theater.

Caracas papers announce that Dr. Luis E. Power is returning from Barquisimeto after having successfully completed a new city aqueduct there; that Don Pedro I. Diaz has gone to Barquisimeto as secretary of an electric plant to be installed; and that Dr. J. A. Tagliaferro, accompanied by an American lawyer and an American engineer, has gone to Valera, Zulia, on matters connected with the sugar central to be built and the railway extension to be made there.

The President of the State of Sucre has decreed the erection of a theater in Cumana. Dr. Rivas Matas is in charge.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 12.]

Telephone and Electrical Developments.

Sr. Don Eugenio Sanchez Afanador of Ciudad Bolivar has been granted permission to erect a 17-mile private telephone line between Ciudad Bolivar and his three cattle ranches in the Heres district.

Sr. Don Antonio Jose Miralles of Guama, Distrito Sucre Yaracuy has been given a permit for a similar line 5 miles long.

Under direction of Gen. Julio Hidalgo, President of the State, plans are being made for an electric lighting plant in Turmero, Aragua.

TWO YEARS' EXPORTS OF COFFEE FROM BRAZIL.

[Willeman's Brazilian Review, Sept. 14.]

A comparison of the total exports of coffee from Brazil during the year ended July 31, 1915, covering the first 12 months of the European war, with the exports for the 12 months immediately preceding the war, shows a decrease of only 7.7 per cent, or 1,132,066 bags, with a total shipment of 13,401,515 bags. The United States continues as the chief purchaser of Brazilian coffee, the exports to this country being 5,880,619 bags, an increase of 62,991 bags. of which 46,000 were reexported to Havre. The exports from Brazil to France were second in importance, amounting to 1,808,815 bags, a decrease of 93,832 bags, or 4.9 per cent. The shipments of 1,933,373 bags to the Scandinavian countries show the remarkable increase of 489 per cent. The greater part of this was taken by Sweden alone, its imports of 1,346,839 bags being an increase of 1,100,988 bags, or 447 per cent, over those of the preceding year. Italy took 688,252 bags, an increase of 447,408, or 186 per cent. The shipments to Great Britain were 479,701 bags, an increase of 207,208 bags, or 76 per cent. No shipments were made to Germany, Austria, or Belgium, countries to which in the preceding year the aggregate exports were 3,431,506 bags.

Changing Markets Shown by Countries of Destination.

The following table shows the exports of coffee (in bags of 132 pounds each) from Brazil during the two years just ended. It furnishes an interesting comment on the change of markets brought about by the European war:

Country of destination.	Year ended July 31, 1914.	Year ended July 31, 1915.	Country of destination.	Year ended July 31, 1914.	Year ended July 31, 1915.
	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>		<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>
United States.....	5,817,628	5,880,619	Algeria.....	72,758	49,425
France.....	1,902,647	1,808,815	Chile.....	26,684	39,692
Sweden.....	245,851	1,346,839	Gibraltar.....	12,200	14,100
Italy.....	240,844	688,252	Turkey in Asia.....	64,862	2,550
Great Britain.....	272,403	479,701	Roumania.....	11,813	2,220
Norway.....	36,775	306,669	Turkey in Europe.....	70,122	2,000
Denmark.....	45,413	279,865	Russia.....	18,913	800
Argentina.....	240,932	261,457	Germany.....	1,876,138	.....
British South Africa.....	123,600	183,437	Austria.....	1,033,173	.....
Greece.....	7,500	117,800	Belgium.....	522,195	.....
Spain.....	106,475	111,843	All other.....	53,352	56,170
Egypt.....	51,820	85,310			
Uruguay.....	35,654	62,703	Total.....	14,533,581	13,401,515

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Optical glass, No. 19008.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that a firm in his district desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of optical glass. Specifications and further information may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

Boots and shoes, hosiery, etc., No. 19009.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in East Africa that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues, prices, etc., on blankets, boots and shoes, bed quilts, cutlery, candlesticks, carpenter tools, hosiery, ice-cream freezers, imitation jewelry, metal bedsteads, patent medicines, padlocks, perfumes, ready-made clothing, slates for school children, unbleached cotton cloth, and white shirting. Prices and discounts should be given for the cheaper qualities. Correspondence may be in English.

Machinery, No. 19010.—An American consular officer in France reports that a business man in his district is desirous of purchasing knitting machines for making silk stockings. He would like to receive catalogues and price lists with a view to buying on a cash basis.

Brooms, trunks, etc., No. 19011.—An American consular officer in Africa reports that a firm in his district wishes to receive catalogues with prices and discounts given on brooms, box openers, corkscrews, doormats, metal trunks, matches, metal bedsteads, meat mincers, pencil sharpeners, patent medicines, stencils and supplies, and rat traps. Only the cheaper qualities are wanted. Correspondence may be in English.

Supplies for iron and coal mines, and metallurgical works, No. 19012.—An American consular officer in Russia transmits the name of a firm which desires to obtain the agency of American manufacturers of supplies for iron and coal mines, and metallurgical works. References are given.

Cast iron pipes, No. 19013.—The bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Great Britain that a firm in his district desires to receive prices and full particulars from American manufacturers of cast iron pipes for sewers, spouts, and drains of all kinds.

Rubber stamp making materials, No. 19014.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers of rubber stamp making materials.

Thread, buttons, etc., No. 19015.—A firm in Norway has informed an American consular officer that it wishes to hear from American exporters and dealers in shoemaker's thread, press buttons, safety pins, hair combs, elastic for hats, stockings and suspenders, metal buttons, and hat pins.

Sulphate of ammonia and sulphurous acid, No. 19016.—The bureau is informed by an American consular officer in the East Indies that a number of firms in his district desire to establish connections with American manufacturers of sulphate of ammonia and sulphurous acid, used in the manufacture of ice.

Stamped metal and wire novelties, No. 19017.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to be supplied with catalogues, price lists, and terms of sole agency for the sale of stamped metal and wire novelties.

Crematory ovens, No. 19018.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a man in his district desires to receive prices and terms on ovens for cremating animals. Catalogues may be in English or Spanish, the latter preferred. Correspondence may be in either language.

Hosiery, No. 19019.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Switzerland that a firm desires to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers of cotton, wool, real and imitation silk hosiery, for men and women, of the holeproof type. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. French ports. Correspondence may be in English, but preferred in French or German. Payments will be made upon receipt of goods. Reference is given.

General agency, No. 19020.—An American consular officer in France writes that a man in his district wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of all lines of merchandise. He does not specify any particular line. Correspondence should be in French.

Machinery, No. 19021.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that a man in his district desires to make connections with American manufacturers of machinery for utilizing the refuse from leather parts, such as soap making from the tallow obtained when paring sheep and other hides. He would also like to receive catalogues and prices on wood-turning lathes for pencils and light wood-cutting machinery. Correspondence should be in the Russian language. Prices, weights, measurements, etc., should be stated in Russian equivalents.

Metal snap fasteners and shoes, No. 19022.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Italy that a firm in his district is in the market for metal snap fasteners for dresses, known as "boutone a ressorts," and leather shoes for women and children. Samples and quotations, c. i. f. destination, are desired. Correspondence should be in Italian.

Haberdashery and silk goods, No. 19023.—An American consular officer in Persia reports that a firm in his district desires to be put in touch with American dealers in haberdashery and silk goods. The firm desires to have goods made especially to suit the Persian market. Prices and samples, similar to a sample which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices, should be sent at once. (Refer to file No. 67619.) Correspondence should be in French.

Glass preserve jars, No. 19024.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district desires to receive quotations on glass jam jars, tie-over shape, two-pound size. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination.

Wearing apparel, No. 19025.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Switzerland that a firm in his district, manufacturing knitted sweaters and golf jackets for women, desires to establish connections with a manufacturer's agent for the sale of its goods in America. References are desired. Correspondence may be in English, but preferred in French or German.

Soap-making supplies, No. 19026.—An American consul in India transmits the name of a firm which desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers of soap-making materials.

Buttons, notions, cotton piece goods, toilet articles, etc., No. 19027.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that a firm in his district desires to correspond with American manufacturers and exporters of wooden, metal, bone, blood and pearl buttons; tapes and bands; pins and needles; sewing cotton; haberdashery and toilet articles; notions; cotton piece goods; stationery; and sewing machines.

Jute tissue, hosiery, sewing thread, etc., No. 19028.—An American consular officer in France writes that an importer in his district desires to be placed in direct communication with American manufacturers of tissue of jute, 2.07 yards wide; hosiery for women and children; sewing thread; gloves, leather and wool for women and children; corsets; letter paper; drapery for men and women; and nails, with a view to buying them on a cash basis.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW COSTA RICA INDUSTRY.

[Consul C. Donaldson, Port Limon, Sept. 22.]

Arnotto, or annatto, as it is commonly called (*Bixa orellana*), grows wild and in abundance in the Port Limon district of Costa Rica, but no one here has ever attempted to develop this rich natural resource into an industry, and the trees have never been planted or cultivated, nor has the fruit ever been gathered for commercial purposes. Judging from its natural growth, there is no doubt that it could be cultivated and gathered with good profit.

An organization was formed in this city recently with the sole purpose of encouraging any and all the industries possible on this coast. The funds are used in purchasing seeds for any who desire to start new agricultural industries and to promote in other ways the natural industries and resources of the district. All inquiries regarding annatto should be addressed to Sr. Don Filadelfo Granados, Secretario de la Junta Agricola Industrial, Port Limon, Costa Rica.

[A review of annatto culture in Jamaica and of the production of the dye, used in coloring butter and cheese and in producing red and yellow tints for calico, silk, wool, skins, feathers, ivory, and bone, was published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for June 1, 1908.]

GOLD RESERVE OF URUGUAYAN BANKS.

[Consul Herman L. Spahr, Montevideo, Sept. 20.]

According to the monthly statement just issued the average gold reserve of the banks of Uruguay in August was, in United States currency: Bank of the Republic, \$16,010,007; private banks, \$4,635,660; total \$20,645,667, against a total of \$20,241,691 in July. Moreover, the Bank of the Republic held in custody on the account of the private banks the sum of \$1,853,186 (in July \$1,911,587).

Shortage of Phosphate Rock in Japan.

In forwarding the names of three Kobe importers of phosphate rock, Vice Consul E. H. Dooman states that the vernacular press has called attention to the shortage of fertilizer materials in Japan, due to smaller imports and decreased production. The three addresses may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 67762.

"A new relation from Planck's Law" is the title of a publication just issued by the United States Bureau of Standards. Numerous displacement laws may be derived from the Planck relation representing the spectral distribution of the energy radiated by a black body. In the present paper a new displacement law is derived. Copies of this publication may be obtained by application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

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BRAZIL NEEDS AMERICAN COTTON.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, Rio de Janeiro.]

The Brazilian market is open to American raw cotton, the native crop being reduced by drought, and factories have increased output. There is a movement toward suspending the import duties on American cotton for six months. It is suggested that cabled offers of prices and clear terms be sent, including cost, insurance, and freight, to Rio de Janeiro. Prices should be for 10-kilo (22.046 pounds) units. Quick action needed. Thirty days' sight against acceptable documents by National City Bank here would be favorable conditions. [The import duty on ginned raw cotton in Brazil is 0.400 milreis per kilo, which, including surtax and partial payment in gold, amounts at the present rate of Brazilian exchange to about \$0.064 per pound.]

CERTIFICATION OF LIFEBOAT MEN.

Department of Commerce Circular No. 267, dated October 22, 1915, designates "Deck officers of the vessels of the Lighthouse Service, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Fisheries Service" to examine applicants for certificates as lifeboat men in accordance with the provisions of the seamen's act, approved March 4, 1915.

Assistants, aids, and other officers of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, who stand a bridge watch, may be designated by commanding officers, or by inspectors, an examining officer, and shall be considered "deck officers" within the meaning of the above circular.

The examination shall be a reasonable demonstration to prove to the satisfaction of the examining officer that the applicant has been trained in all operations connected with launching of lifeboats and the use of oars; that he is acquainted with the practical handling of the boats themselves; and, further, that he is capable of understanding and answering the orders relative to lifeboat service.

Quicksilver, worth in June, 1914, \$37.50 per flask of 75 pounds in San Francisco, is now quoted at \$90.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS AT ARCHANGEL.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Oct. 1.]

Information has been received of continued improvement in conditions at Archangel since the time of my visit there early in August. Notwithstanding increasing arrivals of steamers at Archangel, the goods are shipped out now within a reasonable time after they arrive, and considerable cotton and other merchandise that had accumulated there early this year has now found its way to interior destinations. Probably two-thirds of the previous accumulation of cotton has now left Archangel, while all cotton arriving since has apparently been subjected to no unusual delay.

There seems some good reason to think that when navigation opens at Archangel during the spring of 1916 this port will be even busier than it was this year and there will be no need of the recurrence of serious freight congestion. Great activity is being shown in preparing still further facilities at Archangel for handling freight, and the more promptly freight is shipped the more goods will enter Russia via Archangel.

Broad-Gauge Line to Archangel—Connections with Kola.

It is reported that very good progress has been made during the last month in railway improvements between Vologda and Archangel. It is said that by November 1, 1915, it will be possible to run broad-gauge cars from any part of Russia direct to Archangel, and that for half the distance from Vologda to Archangel the line will be double-tracked. The narrow-gauge line will be retained, so that it will still be possible to make use of the narrow-gauge equipment. Rapid progress is also being made on the line through Lapland between Kandalaksha and Kola, the former town at the extreme northwestern corner of the White Sea and the latter on an estuary from the Arctic Ocean in northern Lapland. It is expected that it will be possible to run cars over this line after January 1, 1916, so that Kola during the winter season can be substituted for Archangel as a port, there being no heavy ice here as at Archangel.

Three cargo ice breakers, one of 2,500-ton capacity and two of 500-ton capacity, will be put on the run for the winter season between Kandalaksha and Sorotskoe, the voyage probably taking about 24 hours each way. Owing to their limited capacity, the ice breakers will probably be reserved for freight urgently required by the Government. The railway southward from Sorotskoe is now practically completed, so that, with the exception of the distance to be traversed across the White Sea, Petrograd should have direct railway communication by January 1, 1916, all the way to Kola. Private freight arriving at Kola during the winter can probably be moved at least as far south as Kandalaksha by the railway now nearing completion, and from Kandalaksha it would probably be transported on sledges across the snow to Kayana, the nearest point on the northern Finnish railway system.

Railway to Connect Sorotskoe and Kotlas—Shipping at Archangel.

An important new railway project will probably be put under way shortly, to connect Sorotskoe on the White Sea with Kotlas, on the north Dvina River, the terminus of a branch line of the north Trans-

siberian Railway system from Vyatka, in northeastern Russia. This line would cross the railway from Archangel to Vologda, probably about half way. The construction of this railway would not only increase the accessibility of Archangel to all parts of Russia and Siberia, but also tend to relieve the strain on Archangel by diverting much of the export and import traffic to Sorotskoe and Kola, which in the winter time might handle all such traffic. There is no likelihood, however, of Archangel's losing much of its present importance in the summer time, as traffic via Archangel requires far less rail haul than would be necessary from northern Lapland.

About 600 steamers averaging 5,000 tons, have arrived at Archangel since navigation opened in the spring. The number of arrivals is showing a rapid rate of increase, and before the close of navigation will probably total 800 to 1,000. The rate of arrivals in 1916 is expected to show a large increase over that of this year. The increase in business for Archangel, however, is not by any means measured entirely by the number of arrivals. It must be considered that before the war a large number of the arrivals were of steamers in ballast or very lightly loaded, taking back timber, tar, etc., to England, whereas now many of them, especially those from the United States, arrive loaded to the gunwales with valuable cargoes. Moreover, the average tonnage of ships arriving at Archangel before the war was about 2,000, whereas now it is about 5,000. It is understood that about 35 steamers have arrived at Archangel from the United States during the season, of which 4 were of American nationality. A heavy export trade to England and France is being carried on, there being not only the customary export movement of timber and tar from the region immediately tributary to Archangel, but also largely increasing exports of butter and eggs before exported mainly through Baltic Sea ports.

Archangel has now become the most important outlet for the great surplus of grain produced in Russia, which was formerly exported chiefly from Black Sea and Baltic ports. Immense quantities of wheat have been shipped from Archangel, especially to France. A great deal of wheat has been shipped from Vladivostok also, but in furnishing the easiest and cheapest way for exporting wheat Archangel clearly surpasses Vladivostok.

Freight-Car Capacity—Freight Rates—Prospects for American Goods.

The broad-gauge cars, which by next month it will probably be possible to run between Vologda and Archangel and, in fact, from all parts of Russia and Siberia to Archangel, have a capacity of 14 tons of 2,240 pounds, as against 10 tons with the present gauge equipment. The increase will, of course, permit of a far heavier freight movement to and from Archangel. There should also be a great saving of time, because the necessity of transshipping freight to cars of different gauges at Vologda will be avoided.

At present the freight rates for inland-waterway transportation between Archangel and the interior districts of Russia are extremely high, owing to the general desire to get all possible freight moved before the water courses begin to freeze, the ice on these inland waterways usually starting to form about October 10. The present rate for shipping cotton from Archangel to Petrograd through the connecting water courses is about 1.50 rubles per pood (\$10.70 per

500-bale at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble); that is, when the cotton is shipped on small barges that can go through all the water courses without transshipment. The rate amounts to about 2.25 rubles per pood (\$16 per bale) when transshipment is required. It is stated, however, that if arrangements could be made now for shipping American cotton from Archangel to Petrograd next May, when navigation is reopened, and when there should be plenty of water free of ice on all the water courses, a rate of about 1 ruble per pood (\$7.15 per bale) could be obtained. By next spring, however, this rate may show a considerable advance if keen competition develops.

The favorable prospects for freight to be moved from Archangel to the interior of Russia during the 1916 season of navigation, without any serious congestion or delays, offer very promising openings for American manufacturers and cotton producers to get their merchandise into Russia and sell it in that country to great advantage. Owing to the difficulties of transportation since the war started, the stocks of ordinary merchandise in Russia have become extremely small and the prices of all imported articles very high. If ships were to arrive from the United States loaded with such articles as hardware, agricultural implements and machines, and a great variety of miscellaneous products such as previously came chiefly from Germany, the goods would doubtless be eagerly purchased at prices very satisfactory to sellers, and for cash on their arrival at such large centers as Petrograd and Moscow.

AMERICAN MOTOR PLOWS IN SCOTTISH CONTEST.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Oct. 14.]

In July last the Highland and Agricultural Society, Edinburgh, arranged for exhibition tests of motor-tillage implements to be held near Stirling on October 5 and 6. This consulate sent a cable dispatch to Washington announcing the tests and suggesting that American manufacturers be advised to communicate with the society. The cable dispatch was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* on July 22, 1915. Four of the six machines which were entered for the trials are American tractors, the "Mogul," "Sandusky," "Overtime," and "Bull." The Syracuse Reversible Sulky Plow was also exhibited and tested. There was a large attendance of farmers and others from all parts of Scotland. The report of the official observers appointed by the Highland and Agriculture Society has not yet been issued.

LANGUAGE TEST FOR SEAMEN.

The following dispatch was, on October 29, 1915, sent to each collector of customs by the Secretary of Commerce:

No examination under language test is required by section 13 of the seamen's act or by the department regulations. If collector of customs is satisfied upon statement of master or otherwise that his crew fulfill requirement of section 13, it is sufficient. If collector thinks a muster is necessary or is required to have one made on complaint, then department circular 265 must be followed, it being specially noted that obedience to orders given by their officers in usual line of duty is the test required.

CITIES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY SEEK BRANCHES OF COMMERCE BUREAU.

"We must reach the markets of the world by the quickest route" is the cry that is being heard at Washington from all parts of the country. Local organizations of business men have found that the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, is leading the way to that quickest route, and are seeking to affiliate with the Bureau. One after another the cities of the United States are making their desires known. The men who have goods to sell in each of these communities seek to share in the practical methods of reaching purchasers abroad that the Bureau has established.

"We want a branch office of the Bureau; if we can't have a branch office, how can we get a cooperative branch?" nearly two score cities have declared, and within a very short time 10 of these will have realized their wish, for 6 cooperative branches have already been launched and 4 more have nearly completed their plans for the launching.

The remaining 25 cities? All have asked for full information about conditions under which a branch can be established for their benefit. The circle of business boomers can not be completed in a day. It will take several days; most likely several weeks; in some cases several months; but the country has the world-wide-business desire, and has turned to this Bureau at the National Capital as the means of entering the international trade routes.

The movement has sprung up within a few months. The European war has hastened its development. Every cooperative branch of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that is established increases the force with which the main office can demonstrate to foreign countries the advantages of dealing with Americans. The Bureau welcomes the opportunity to offer its facilities to the men who are manufacturing goods in these widely scattered communities.

Those who applied for information have learned that the Bureau has much to offer through a cooperative branch that a strictly local organization can not give. All the details of trade opportunities abroad are quickly transmitted; confidential circulars are distributed; the telegraph brings practically instantaneous word of urgent needs of foreign buyers; inquiries are promptly answered; samples from agents in the field are exhibited; plans and specifications of new projects are shown; the publications of the Bureau are always to be obtained; every facility of the Washington office is available.

In short these offices perform the same service as the eight branch offices of the Bureau, but the number of the latter is limited and can not be increased at present. Each is the headquarters for one of the eight districts of the country, and has general supervision of the cooperative offices in its district. Chambers of commerce that establish cooperative branches furnish the man to take charge of the local work, give him any needed clerical assistance, agree to make certain reports, keep certain records, arrange for any visits that may be made by consuls, agents, or commercial attachés, and permit all citizens to have the benefits of the service.

An Australian Government laboratory for manufacturing serum and vaccine is being considered.

AMERICAN WORKS FOR BRITAIN.

[Glasgow Herald, Oct. 19.]

One of the results to be expected from the (British) duty on motor cars is the transfer from foreign countries of such parts of the work of manufacture as can be as well or better done in the United Kingdom. This was foretold when the tax was announced, and already the anticipations are being realized. The ——— Co. of America, who produce one of the most popular of the low-priced high-value machines on the market, have in contemplation the establishment of large works in this country, and a member of the American concern is on his way across to investigate the matter. The intention is to restrict work in the first instance to assembling, and in that work a very great saving should undoubtedly be effected, but there is no reason apparent why the scheme should not extend to complete manufacture. So far as assembling is concerned, it should be possible to do it at least as cheaply as in Detroit, where the demand on skilled labor must be overwhelming, while the freight charges would be less and the duty on the cost of assembling would be saved.

When the war ends there will be set free a large amount of suitable labor for which there will not be an immediate demand, the British factories having to change their equipment from that suitable for munitions manufacture to the tools, etc., employed in the manufacture of motor cars. When that time comes the ——— Company would be in a position to give employment, but it is hoped, should the scheme go on, to secure enough labor to make a start long before the war can finish, so far as can be judged at present. Since February last 50,000 cars have been made in the Detroit works of the company, a good many of them being assembled in the works of the British ——— Company (Limited) at Chelsea, London. It will be seen, then, that the new departure of the American concern has been led up to by their British representatives, but whereas the British company have been chiefly concerned about supplying the British market, it is anticipated that the new undertaking will take up the fulfilling of orders all over the world. There can be no doubt regarding the wisdom of the proposed step, even though the duty should in a few years be repealed. The saving in transportation, combined with the cheaper British labor, should justify it on its merits.

NEW STEAMSHIP LINE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Oct. 2.]

Madrid newspapers of this date call attention to the new Intera Line of steamers touching at London, Hull, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, England; touching also at Bilbao, Santander, and Gijon, Spain. The ships will also make a port of call of Oporto, Portugal. The service was inaugurated by the sailing of the *Neytar* from Newcastle-on-Tyne on September 27. The agents of the line in Spain are Sres. Modesto Piñeiro y Cia., Santander, Spain.

The run of humpback salmon in Washington waters has been large. The United States Bureau of Fisheries, which has been taking eggs of that species at its stations in that State, reports prospects that the collections will meet all demands for the season.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ADVERTISES ITS TIMBER.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, Oct. 20.]

The British Columbia Government is carrying on an extensive campaign to increase the export and Canadian sales of the timber products of the Province. Mr. H. R. McMillan, formerly head of the Forestry Department of this Province, now a representative of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada, recently completed a tour of Australia and New Zealand for this purpose. He is now on a similar trip to Great Britain.

Three pamphlets recently issued furnish data regarding the uses of the different timbers, the methods of manufacture, preservation, etc. This literature is sent to all available points. The placing of exhibits is another method of advertising used by the Provincial Government. An excellent representation of the timbers of the Province was shown recently at the annual fair at Toronto. Permanent exhibits have been placed in the Prairie Provinces, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and other points farther west.

Exhibit of Woods Being Prepared for London.

An exhibit of British Columbia's native woods is being assembled, to be placed in the new British Columbia Government Building in London, England. The woods used are fir, cedar, hemlock, tamarac, and cottonwood from the coast districts and mountain pine, white pine, and larch from the interior. Some of the uses to which these woods are put are shown, such as piling (creosoted and natural), ship's planking, decking, car stock, silo lumber, ties (creosoted and natural), wood pipe, and paving blocks, etc. There are also specimens of lumber for building purposes and all kinds of exterior and interior trimmings, such as siding, shingles, flooring, doors and molding, and a number of panels to show the effect of the different finishes on various woods.

The Provincial Government reports that the logs scaled for July and August of this year amounted to 68,897,188 and 64,257,966 feet, respectively, the figures for the month of July being approximately 6,000,000 feet less than those of the corresponding month last year. The total for the first seven months of this year is 380,690,517, as compared with a total for the corresponding period in 1914 of 310,734,772.

With a steady, large production of logs, an increasing surplus is reported on hand. A month or so ago it was placed at 120,000,000 feet, but now it is estimated at between 140,000,000 and 150,000,000 feet. Sales of fir are reported as low as \$4. Quotations run from \$4.50 to \$6 and \$8. Cedar is placed at \$6, \$8.50, and \$12.50. The demand is not heavy.

During July the Provincial timber sales amounted to 5,472,154 feet, as compared with 10,100,857 feet of logs, 85,000 linear feet of piles and poles, and 1,234 cords of pulp wood, cordwood, etc, for the month of August.

Timber Insects' Destructive Work.

Officials of the entomological branch of the Department of Agriculture of Canada, who have been making investigations in this Province in connection with the destructive work of bark beetles, boring insects, etc., state that a vast amount of destruction in the yellow, white, and lodge-pole pine has occurred by outbreaks of bark

beetles in the country around Okanogan Lake, west to Princeton and Nicola, and to a lesser extent in the Kootenays. Considerable damage has also been done to the cedar growth on the coast by boring insects, rendering the trees unfit for the manufacture of shingles.

Investigations made in Stanley Park, Vancouver, show that bark beetles have attacked the spruce trees, causing considerable damage among the young growth. Defoliating caterpillars have also made great depredations among the hemlock trees, and several acres of dead trees were found on the north side of the park.

It is reported that an entirely new species of borer has been discovered, and that it is doing a great deal of damage in green cedar. It bores tunnels through the trunk one-quarter to 1-inch wide and about one-eighth of an inch deep, in many cases riddling the wood so that it is unfit for lumber or shingles.

The plant of the Shull Lumber & Shingle Co. (Ltd.), on the north arm of the Fraser River, a few miles below New Westminster, British Columbia, has just been completed, at an approximate cost of \$150,000. It recently made its initial shipment—three cars of shingles to Montana. The mill is one of the largest and most modern on the coast, and the machinery installed is of the latest design. It is owned and operated by Americans.

American Ship to Take Lumber to China.

The American sailing schooner *Hugh Hogan*, owned in Portland, Oreg., has been chartered recently by local agents to carry 600,000 feet of British Columbia lumber to Shanghai, China. It is stated that in former years a large percentage of the China lumber trade was handled by Pacific coast mills, but in later years the trade has been secured by Australian firms, owing to their close proximity to that market and their abundant supply of hardwoods. This is the first American sailing vessel chartered in this trade for a number of years.

The recent clearing of the Norwegian steamer *Admiralen* from Great Point Rapids, British Columbia, for New York, via the Panama Canal, with a 4,000,000 consignment of British Columbia shingles, was of particular interest to the trade, on account of the charter being direct between the British Columbia manufacturer and the purchaser, heretofore practically unknown in the British Columbia shingle trade as applying to American markets.

As showing the relative importance of lumber shipments to San Francisco from British Columbia, compared with those shipped from Puget Sound ports, for the nine months ended September 30, 1915, the following table may be of interest:

Districts.	Quantity for 9 months.
	<i>Feet.</i>
Oregon coast.....	142,252,000
Columbia River.....	57,326,000
Willapa Harbor.....	24,075,000
Puget Sound.....	71,851,000
Grays Harbor.....	69,829,000
British Columbia.....	3,206,000
Northern shipments.....	368,129,000
Redwood.....	174,401,000
Total.....	542,530,000

Timber Products Exported to United States.

Timber products exported from British Columbia to the United States, invoiced through the consulate general at Vancouver, for the three quarters ended September 30, 1914 and 1915, were valued at \$4,021,635 and \$5,622,451, respectively.

The West Coast Lumberman gives the imports of shingles from Canada by the United States for the first six months of 1914 and 1915 at 530,296 and 768,686 thousand, respectively, which indicates that a large share was from British Columbia, inasmuch as the returns of this office show that for these two periods there were invoiced through it alone 303,584 and 574,605 thousand, respectively.

[Copies of three publications—"British Columbia timber," "British Columbia red-cedar shingles," and "How to finish British Columbia wood"—together with a reprint of a Canadian commerce report by Mr. H. R. MacMillan on the condition of the lumber market, will be loaned to interested persons on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 67968. Mr. MacMillan was formerly chief forester of British Columbia.]

MAGNETITE IRON-ORE DEPOSITS OF GORDON ISLAND.

[Consul David J. D. Myers, Punta Arenas, Chile, Aug. 28.]

There are forwarded herewith data on the iron-ore deposits of Gordon Island, which properties the owners offer for sale or exploitation. Comment on the position is considered unnecessary, as the island and Beagle Channel are shown on all maps of the region, which is sparsely populated and for the most part unexplored. Large steamers can enter the bay throughout the year. The company controlling the deposits is regularly constituted and duly registered, but has no capital to exploit the mines, not even to make a proper survey and tests of its holdings. Arrangements were being carried out to sell to a French concern when the war broke out, which brought negotiations to a close.

Although specific information is lacking on the possible quantities of ore obtainable from these deposits, it is believed to be worth the while of American concerns interested in securing such ore to go to some small expense in investigating same, due to the great ease with which the ore can be put aboard steamers in case it is found to exist in quantities sufficient to justify its exploitation. Correspondence should be conducted direct with the local representative, preferably in Spanish, the language of this port, although English may be used. Copies of correspondence might be sent with advantage to this consulate.

[A pen drawing of the location of the property offered, an analysis of the ore, and other information may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 67120.]

GRAIN HARVEST IN DENMARK.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Sept. 30.]

The yield of wheat in Denmark for the crop season just closed is estimated at 8,000,000 bushels, against an average yield for the past five years of 4,800,000 bushels; rye, 11,000,000 bushels, against an average yield of 15,000,000 bushels; barley, 21,000,000 bushels, compared with 18,000,000 bushels; oats, 45,000,000 bushels, compared with 46,000,000 bushels.

PROBLEM OF WOOL STORAGE.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Sept. 30.]

The congestion of wool at the London Docks is a matter that has been engaging considerable local attention. It is said that conditions resulting from the war have greatly increased the amount of wool sent to England from the colonies. Practically the whole of Germany's supply from Australia and New Zealand appears to have been diverted to this country, and according to an Australian estimate during the past seven months approximately 1,500,000 bales have been landed in the Port of London alone.

Much of the wool landed in London is for direct dispatch to Bradford by rail, and it has been suggested by the Government that action should be taken in the West Riding of Yorkshire to increase the storage accommodation on similar lines to that already done by the Port of London Authority in building several additional sheds. The Bradford Chamber of Commerce reports that some additional warehouses are now being utilized.

Many Interests Clash at Present.

The following extract from the Yorkshire Post gives the result of an interview with Mr. J. B. Broodbank, chairman of the dock and warehouse committee of the Port of London Authority. The details of the facilities offered by Manchester and the description of the cotton warehouses which could be utilized for wool are of considerable interest in this connection.

Much of the wool landed in London is for direct despatch to Bradford by rail. This wool might be diverted elsewhere. East-coast ports are not favored at present, and the congestion which still prevails at Liverpool puts that port out of the question. In these circumstances Manchester has come forward with suggestions that may help to relieve the situation.

Many interests clash at the present time. It is essential that ships occupying wharf space should be discharged as quickly as possible, but the work is very much hampered if the transit sheds are occupied as warehouses. The port authorities finding all their space filled up by an accumulation of goods are hindered in their work. The railway companies have their own peculiar embarrassments and have to be careful that neither the Port Authority on the one hand nor the trade on the other forces them into becoming warehousemen for the surplus wool. They are therefore limiting their acceptances of wool from the docks to the amount which each particular customer is able to take off their hands immediately.

The wool, however, must be stored somewhere. The port and railway authorities are urging Bradford to make a much greater provision of warehouse space than has hitherto been thought necessary, and it has even been suggested that a municipal storehouse should be provided [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 17, 1915, p. 133]. Bradford, on the other hand, contends that the times are abnormal and does not like the idea of embarking on a big scheme of warehouse building. Moreover, the provision of huge storehouses at Bradford would still leave difficulties with the railways, which would be liable to be inundated with wool traffic whenever there was a big arrival at the port and the ships were being discharged as rapidly as possible.

What Manchester Offers.

The Manchester proposal, which is being put forward by the Ship Canal Co. and Manchester Warehouses (Ltd.), is to provide a kind of reservoir or safety valve in the shape of big warehouses at the Manchester docks, to which the wool may be taken direct from the ship's hold and then drawn upon according to the requirements of the Bradford trade. In the course of a letter to the Bradford Chamber of Commerce on this subject, Mr. Marshall Stevens, chairman of the Port of Manchester Warehouses (Ltd.), says:

"If arrangements are made with us, we are prepared to provide all the storage accommodation necessary for next season's wool coming on through bill of

lading to Bradford. We have buildings now in course of construction the whole of which will be ready in a few weeks, with a capacity of something like 3,500,000 cubic feet. These buildings, of course, are not being erected for wool traffic, but principally for cotton and general merchandise. None of them, however, is allocated at the present time to particular traffic, and as much as is necessary can be set aside for wool, and if arrangements are made we can add to the accommodation almost indefinitely in time for your next season's requirements.

"We are not going to give the accommodation for wool unless it be to encourage direct imports to Manchester docks, and for this purpose the condition that we suggest is that those of your merchants requiring the accommodation should take a minimum quantity of space from us for a period of three years. We have looked at the rent charges for wool at London and find that it is not necessary for us to make charges of that nature. We will be satisfied with the same rental proportionately as we get for cotton, which would mean that for every 16 feet of cubic space occupied by wool we would require a rent of 1d. [2 cents] plus 10 per cent per week. This would easily be brought down to rates per bale for each particular class of wool as the consignments come forward here. The same thing applies to the charges for the labor operations necessary, and until a schedule has been agreed we will limit our charges to the cost of labor, materials, etc., plus 12½ per cent."

An Example from Cotton.

A member of our staff who paid a recent visit to Trafford Park was shown a large number of bales of Patagonian wool stored in one of the huge warehouses which have been erected this year. These warehouses, equipped with all modern electrical facilities for handling goods, are going up very rapidly on the Trafford Park estate, and the extent to which they are being taken advantage of for raw or semimanufactured goods of all kinds is remarkable. It is now quite an established thing in the cotton trade to store raw cotton in the docks until the mills can take delivery. There are on the Trafford Park estate now and in course of erection some of the finest stores for cotton in the world. Every detail has been carefully thought out from the point of view of fire prevention, and also that of easy handling. The degree of immunity from serious fire that has been attained is shown by the fire insurance rates, which are only one-fifth of the ordinary rates for cotton stored in warehouses. These great cotton "safes," as they are called, are very impressive—vast brick caverns, in which the bales are stacked by the electric overhead traveling cranes. The new safes now in course of erection are provided with a tank of water running the whole length of the central corridor. In case of fire the suction pipe of the fire engine would be put in the tank, and the water would afterwards be drawn back into the tank, thus avoiding damage to adjoining compartments by flooding, and giving economy of water. Ships' cargoes are unloaded into these safes, from which the mills draw a regular supply of the raw material as it is required. There is no intermediate carting, for the railway lines run along each of the warehouses, and the cotton is sent direct from the warehouse to the point of consumption with a minimum of handling.

It is this system which Manchester proposes to offer to the wool trade. When our representative was at Manchester, there were a large number of ships in dock, but there was room for a number more to get alongside without delay. All the dockside appliances at Manchester are of the most modern type, and the organization is such that ships can be discharged and the goods safely warehoused in the shortest possible time.

JAPANESE METEOROLOGICAL SIGNALS.

[Consul General Ransford S. Miller, Seoul, Chosen, Sept. 1.]

The Meteorological Observatory in Chemulpo (Jinsen) has lately decided to show to ships in the port the meteorological conditions of the day by means of signal flags. Flags showing the degree of the atmospheric pressure taken by the Meteorological Observatory at 10 a. m. every day are hoisted for 10 minutes on the signal post on Wolmi Island, in the harbor of Chemulpo, the signal used being in the international code. The Seoul Press, in reporting the above, adds that similar steps are to be taken in the near future at the ports of Fusan and Gensan and at other harbors in Chosen.

HONGKONG RICE CONTRACTS.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 11.]

Considerable difficulty is arising in rice shipments from Hongkong to the United States and South Africa as a result of variations from samples and substitutions in quality of grain exported by some shippers. Certain shippers of the colony complain that they have lost business from American and other foreign customers by unfair competition which is more or less of a fraud on the American or other importer and a breaking away from established standards in the trade.

The situation can be explained best by an example. Reliable firms will furnish to American importers samples of certain grades of rice as recognized by the trade here and hold themselves ready to quote prices on demand for rice of the grades represented by the samples given. An American buyer will ask for prices from several firms on the basis of the samples submitted, and the price here in the open market for the grade ordered will be, say, \$5.25 per picul (133½ pounds). Some of the dealers competing in an unfair way will go to Chinese middlemen and secure a grade of rice by mixing the \$5.25 grade with inferior rice which can be had at a cost of, say, \$5.10 per picul. It will quote the price of \$5.10 for the grade of rice asked for by the American importer and will fill the order obtained at the lower price with the rice valued at only \$5.10 per picul.

This substitution of rice for the grade ordered involves so slight a departure from the standard ordered that it is seldom detected by the importer at the time, if ever, while the difference is great enough to secure the unfair competitor the business. This practice continues until in time the variation from the standard quality becomes great enough to be noticed and then, of course, there is trouble. In the meanwhile, firms of integrity who have maintained the standard upon which they have quoted current prices and who fill orders with grain of the quality sampled not only lose business, but lose prestige with American importers because of the seemingly higher prices quoted by them on the basis of samples submitted.

A Rice Exchange Needed—American Purchases.

There is great need in Hongkong of a Rice Exchange. The volume of business in the grain is large enough to justify such an organization on a large scale and with full machinery for establishing and maintaining quality standards and contract arrangements. The greater portion of the rice business of the port, however, is in the control of Chinese firms. These firms maintain more or less of an organization of their own, but it does not and the firms usually will not cooperate with foreign firms in foreign business. Foreign firms usually buy rice for export in the open market and there is little or no machinery for correcting abuses like that described. The substitution of lower grades of grain for standard grades sampled to the trade has been particularly prevalent in the trade with South Africa.

The export of rice to the United States so far this year has exceeded all previous records. Shipments up to August 31 alone amounted in value to \$1,337,661, as compared with a value of \$820,455 for the entire first nine months of 1914 and \$893,720 for the first

nine months of 1913 and \$802,030 for the first nine months of 1912. Shipments to the Philippines up to August 31 this year have been valued at \$2,047,898, compared with a value of \$577,321 for the first nine months of 1914 and of \$850,739 and \$3,313,708, respectively, for the first nine months of 1913 and the famine year of 1912.

SOUTH AMERICA AS A MARKET FOR PRUNES.

[Review of the River Plate, Sept. 17.]

There is apparently an opportunity for the American prune in South America. Approximately a quarter million dollars' worth of prunes are imported annually into South America under normal trade conditions, and of this the United States, the largest prune-producing country of the world, supplies only about 5 per cent. Argentina's importations of prunes in 1912, the latest normal year, amounted to over \$100,000, and those of Brazil to a like sum, though the exact figures for Brazil can not be stated, owing to the fact that the official statistics include certain other fruits with prunes in the total of dried fruits imported. Uruguay is also a considerable importer of prunes, and all these countries have in the past drawn their importations from France and the Balkan States, which are next to the United States in rank of world producers of prunes. They have also drawn large quantities from Germany, and as the imports from all these European prune-supplying areas are now either cut off or greatly reduced, the opportunity is open to the American growers, who can reach the South American market from the Pacific coast by way of the Panama Canal at much less expense than formerly. In the fiscal year 1913 the United States exported 118 million pounds of prunes, valued at \$6,656,000, of which only 196,000 pounds, valued at \$14,000, went to South America.

[The exports of prunes from the United States during the fiscal year 1914 amounted to 69,813,711 pounds, valued at \$4,662,546, of which 125,225 pounds, valued at \$10,957, went to South America.]

LIVE STOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS IN SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Siam, Aug. 23.]

According to Siamese official statistics the number of all domestic animals in the Kingdom on January 1, 1915, was 4,494,102, as compared with 4,330,926 on the corresponding date in 1914. The live stock in January, 1915, consisted of 4,640 elephants, 92,275 horses and ponies, 2,397,970 cows, oxen, and calves, and 1,999,217 buffaloes.

During the last fiscal year 35 horses and ponies, 396 sheep, 3 goats, and 3,860 pigs were imported into Siam, the horses coming from Australia, and the other animals from oriental ports. The only exports of live stock from Siam during 1914-15 consisted of 8,024 bullocks, valued at \$200,416, shipped to Singapore, and 3 horses.

Among the exports of animal products during the last fiscal twelve-months were: Bones, \$6,304; hides and skins, \$913,585; horns, \$37,631; and ivory, \$7,085. The only exports of animal products from Siam to the United States during 1914-15 were 77,046 pounds of hides, valued at \$10,563. On account of the prevalence of cattle disease in Siam every shipment of hides to the United States is thoroughly disinfected in the presence of a consular officer.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Pocket electrical lamps, hardware, etc., No. 19029.—A commercial organization in the United States transmits the name of a firm in France which desires quotations on pocket electrical lamps, hardware, and sanitary articles for surgeons and hospitals.

Cotton and woolen goods, No. 19030.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of cotton and woolen goods, with a view to securing the representation of such manufacturers in India on a commission basis. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.

Leather hand bags and purses, No. 19031.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in England that a firm of wholesale leather-goods dealers in his district desires to receive samples and quotations on gross lots of leather hand bags and purses for women. Various styles and sizes are wanted. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination.

Machinery, No. 19032.—A business firm in the United States writes that one of its correspondents in the Far East desires the name of an American manufacturer of machinery and other apparatus necessary to install a plant for making desiccated coconut, known also as shredded coconut.

Garters, No. 19033.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a firm in his district desires to represent an American manufacturer of garters. An exclusive agency for all Switzerland is wanted. It will represent the manufacturer on a commission basis or will purchase outright. Samples, with quotations c. i. f. French ports, are desired. Correspondence may be in English, but is preferred in French or German.

Dry goods, drugs, iron, and iron manufactures, No. 19034.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Siberia that a man in his district has requested the names and addresses of American firms dealing in dry goods and notions, drugs, iron, and iron manufactures. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

Tubes for boilers, No. 19035.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm in his district wishes immediate quotations on cold-drawn weldless steel tubes for boilers, galvanized externally. Specifications and further information may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices. Correspondence may be in English. Payments will be made against documents in Italy. Reference is given. (Refer to file No. 67664.)

Underwear, No. 19036.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a firm in his district desires to establish connections with an American manufacturer of cotton and woolen underwear for men. Medium and ordinary qualities, an assortment of light colors, such as gray, white, etc., are wanted. Quotations should be made c. i. f. French ports. Correspondence may be in English, but is preferred in French or German.

General agency, No. 19037.—The Bureau is in receipt of a communication from an attorney in New York stating that a man in Paris desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters in France, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland. No particular line is mentioned.

Machinery, No. 19038.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that the Ministro de Fomento, Madrid, Spain, has been authorized to call for proposals to supply an excavating machine and a winch machine to drill artesian wells. Plans and specifications may be seen at the "Secretaria de la Junta Central de Repoblacion Interior," Casa de la Moneda, Plaza de Colon, Madrid, Spain. Proposals, in Spanish, will be received until November 3, 1915. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Machinery, No. 19039.—A commercial organization in the United States transmits the name of a man in Spain who desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of machines to cover wire with silk. A sample has been forwarded, which may be seen at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 72.)

- Toothbrushes*, No. 19040.—An American consular officer in Central America reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of cheap grades of toothbrushes, with a view to securing the agency for same.
- Shoes, clothing, house fittings, furniture, etc.*, No. 19041.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Canada that a man desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of boots and shoes for women, clothing, house fittings, furniture, hardware, etc. Reference is given.
- Glassware*, No. 19042.—A firm in the United Kingdom writes the Bureau that it desires to establish connections with American dealers in lamp glasses, oil and incandescent; ships' cone glasses; and gauge glasses.
- Lard, oleo oil, and linseed meal and cakes*, No. 19043.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in the United States writes that a representative of a firm in Holland is anxious to make agency connections with American manufacturers. The firm is particularly interested in oleo oil, oleo stock, neutral lard, linseed meal, and linseed cakes. American references will be furnished by the firm.
- Hardware, tools, and steel products*, No. 19044.—A commercial organization in the United States reports that a man in Spain desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of hardware, tools, and steel products. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Bank notes and bank supplies*, No. 19045.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that the promoters of a bank in his district would like to receive prices and samples of bank-note engraving; also catalogues and prices of bank supplies. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Gristmills, irrigating pumps, and windmills*, No. 19046.—An American consular officer in China states that an American in his district has informed him that there is a possible market for cheap gristmills, particularly mills constructed so as to use buffalo power. The man also states that he has received inquiries in regard to American irrigating pumps, windmills, looms, machinery for paper mills, and other machinery.
- Tile dies*, No. 19047.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in India that a firm in his district desires to buy dies for tiles. References are given.
- Brass strips*, No. 19048.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a man in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of rolled brass strips, rolled polished brass strips, and rolled engraving brass strips, 6 to 18 inches wide, and from 12 to 20 feet long, suitable for use in making name plates, memorial brasses, stencils, and stamps and dies, etc. The gauge should be B. W. 8 to 22. Prices should be in British currency. References are given.
- Leather for harness making*, No. 19049.—A firm in Spain has informed an American consular officer in that country that it wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of leather suitable for use in making harness. Correspondence is preferred in Spanish.
- Safes*, No. 19050.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Venezuela that a firm in his district desires the exclusive agency for the sale of moderate-priced safes. Cash will be paid for all orders. Prices f. o. b. New York are desired. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

ELECTRIC POWER FOR HOBART, TASMANIA.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Sept. 6.]

An agreement has been entered into between the hydroelectric department of the State of Tasmania and the city council of Hobart in regard to the supply of power for the city tramways and other purposes. The following items of the agreement show that electric power should be much cheaper here and there should be a very material increase in the demand for electrical material and supplies:

Power to be taken at the direct-current end of the Government switchboard at 1½ cents per unit (including switchboard operation) up to 1,500,000 units per annum; all units above 1,500,000 per annum at 1 cent per unit; this power to be used for all tramway purposes or for all consumers of power now supplied by the tramway department or additional consumers of power within the area marked on the attached plan of the city.

The council to pay a minimum revenue of \$23,111 per annum and to guarantee to meet the demand and to push the sale of electricity to the utmost within the said area.

The council to establish and maintain a showroom for motors and to establish a charge of sales scale for power, to be approved by the Government.

The Government also to have the right to supply current direct to all consumers of 500 horsepower and over.

The Government to undertake to reduce the rate quoted above as soon as it is commercially possible.

Augmented Market for American Machinery and Appliances.

The Government is also negotiating to purchase the plant and distributing system of the Hobart Gas Co., a private concern, which supplies gas and electricity throughout Hobart in competition with the municipally owned electric plant. It is thought that about \$500,000 will be involved in this transaction.

As this cheaper power will be available not later than April of next year, it is well that exporters of electrical goods should approach this market as soon as possible. American electrical machinery and appliances enjoy a very high reputation here, and are usually given preference when prices are right.

In ordinary times England, Germany, and the United States supply the bulk of the demand for electrical goods. The trade amounts to \$80,000 a year, oversea imports of electrical machines and appliances during 1913 being valued at \$61,390 and those of electrical materials at \$20,995. It is now becoming more difficult to obtain such goods in England unless purchasers are inclined to be exceptionally lenient in the matter of deliveries. Under these circumstances American firms will find here a developing market, with competition by no means so severe as formerly.

[A list of dealers in electrical goods in Hobart may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67384.]

This year's production of sake, the Japanese national beverage, will represent a decrease from the total output of last year. This is due to the large stock held over from 1914. According to the Vice Minister for Finance, as quoted by the Peking Daily News, last year's output of sake amounted to 174,409,980 gallons, and the tax on it totaled \$35,856,000, the reduction this year amounting to 23,826,500 gallons, and the decrease in the total tax to \$4,980,000.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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SWISS FEDERAL PURCHASING TRUST.

[American Minister P. A. Stovall, Berne, Sept. 29.]

While the details of the projected organization have not as yet been decided upon, the Swiss Council, in a sitting held September 22, approved the creation of a "trust" which will be known as the Société Suisses de Surveillance (Swiss Society of Surveillance), the letters S. S. S. being selected as its commercial designation. The society will be composed of 15 members, all of Swiss nationality, appointed by the Swiss Federal Council. It is expected that the directors will be well-known personages of character and standing, chosen from the various Cantons of German, French, and Italian language.

The primary purpose of the newly organized society is to secure the importation of the necessary supplies and materials which Switzerland requires both for home consumption and in order to continue its industries during the period of hostilities. The projected "trust" will exercise no control over the importation of metals. A separate syndicate, under Federal supervision, has been organized for this purpose.

Charges—Consignments to Trust.

The newly created Swiss Society has a nominal capital of 100,000 francs (\$19,300), which has been placed at its disposal by the Federal Council. The society is not intended to be a profit-making organization, and will not be permitted to engage in any commercial transaction on its own account. The charge imposed by the Netherlands Oversea Trust in Holland is one-eighth of 1 per cent of the invoice value of shipments. [Numerous references to the Netherlands Oversea Trust have appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS during the current year; see, among others, the issues for Jan. 2 (p. 6) and Sept. 11.] It is likely that a similar charge will be made by the Swiss Society and the proceeds devoted to the payment of current expenses and of a reasonable interest on the working capital advanced by the Confederation.

In order to secure uninterrupted sea passage on shipments to Switzerland, as well as free passage through the allied countries,

all such shipments, after this date, should be consigned to the S. S. S. by the consignor. In each case the consignee must secure, in advance, written authorization from the Society. It must be shown conclusively that the goods composing the shipments are intended for bona fide Swiss consumption and not for reexportation.

INTEREST IN GOLD FIELDS NEAR WINNIPEG.

Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, at Winnipeg, Manitoba, under date of October 9, reports that prospectors for gold, who have been locating claims in the Rice Lake district, 100 miles north of Winnipeg for the past year, have brought in samples which seem to indicate that the locality is rich in minerals. Claims are also being staked in the Gold Lake district, about 50 miles north of Rice Lake.

The strata extend from Cumberland Lake, northwest of La Pas, southeasterly into the Rainy River district. There is a gneissic formation, with seams of from 1 to 6 inches in width, showing tracings of gold, iron, barites, with some copper and silver.

The most practical means of reaching Rice Lake district is by small steamer from Winnipeg to the mouth of the Monogotogan River, which flows into Lake Winnipeg, about 100 miles from Winnipeg; from there it is possible to ascend the river in canoes about 50 miles to Ratroot Lake, and then overland, and from there portaging over rough country, a distance of about 12 miles to Rice Lake, thus making the transportation of machinery extremely difficult—even that of a portable nature for superficial development.

Practically all of the claims filed in the district have been staked for speculative purposes. Several prospectors and mining engineers from Boston and Minneapolis have gone up to the new gold fields and upon returning were reticent as to the prospects.

The Provincial Government is to make an effort to obtain the mineral rights from the Dominion Government, which owns all the minerals in the Province of Manitoba. According to the records, Manitoba has received upward of \$4,000 in fees for recording the 746 claims in good standing in the Rice and Gold Lake districts. These records show that \$260,000 has already been expended in the locality, 20 per cent of which has been for transportation.

FREIGHT RATE VIA PANAMA RAILWAY.

[Announcement of the Panama Canal, Washington office, Oct. 30.]

Referring to the memorandum issued by this office dated October 19, 1915, in reference to the establishment of classified rates for the transfer of freight across the Isthmus by the Panama Railroad, to become effective with the arrival of ships at the Panama Canal on and after November 1, 1915, and during such times as the canal may be closed to traffic, the Secretary of War has decided that in view of the many questions involved in changing from the \$3 flat rate to the classified rates, the flat rate will be temporarily continued under the conditions now in effect until he has had a full opportunity to thoroughly investigate the subject. The classified tariff heretofore approved to go into effect November 1 is therefore withdrawn, and the emergency \$3 flat rate covered by this office's memorandum dated October 8, 1915, will be continued until further notice.

INTRODUCTION OF TILEFISH A SUCCESS.

The results of the first two trips of the auxiliary schooner *Stranger*, landing tilefish at New York City, give evidence that the campaign of the United States Bureau of Fisheries to introduce that fish is a complete success. In the beginning some of the dealers expressed doubt whether the public would accept the fish in sufficient quantities to warrant the establishment of a regular fishery. However, the publicity campaign of the bureau has been effective and the fish are in demand with both dealers and public.

The first fare of 10,000 pounds reached New York late on October 21 and was put on the market early the next morning. Although the start was slow, the demand increased rapidly and by 3 o'clock the market was cleaned out, with orders unfilled. The second trip of 12,000 pounds docked on the morning of October 27 and despite the competition of an unusual amount of both cheap and fancy fish in the market the tilefish were taken by the dealers as fast as unloaded. All reports from those that have eaten the fish are good, and the dealers agree that a permanent demand is established.

The *Stranger* is now out on its third trip, this time with a camera man from one of the motion-picture companies along, so that pictures of the fish and fishing operations will soon be shown throughout the country.

The Bureau of Fisheries states that unless there should be a complete reversal of the results of fishing during the next two trips, it will be under no expense for fishing operations, and the fishermen will receive considerably more than what they regard as a reasonable return for their labor.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The imports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended October 23, 1915, were as follows: Ore, matte, and regulus (copper contents), 762,018 pounds, valued at \$111,586; pigs, ingots, etc., 1,652,307 pounds, valued at \$254,131. Cuba supplied 480,980 pounds of the ore, matte, and regulus and Canada 1,383,042 pounds of the pigs, ingots, etc.

The exports of domestic copper (pigs, ingots, etc.) during the week amounted to 15,229,219 pounds, valued at \$2,832,827, of which 5,341,186 pounds went to France, 4,356,064 pounds to Italy, 3,198,999 pounds to England, and 1,680,857 pounds to Russia.

SPAIN FIXES PRICE OF MERCURY.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Oct. 7.]

The Spanish Government this day announces that the price of mercury sold by the lessees of the mines at Almaden shall be 385 pesetas per flask of 34.507 kilos. The Spanish Government is the owner of this property and the price fixed as above relates to transactions between the Government and the lessees. The figure is about \$1 per avoirdupois pound.

NEW ORLEANS BECOMES SPOT SISAL MARKET.

[Commercial Agent Edwin E. Judd, New Orleans, La., Oct. 21.]

A syndicate of New Orleans bankers yesterday announced the execution of a contract with the Henequen Growers Association of Yucatan for a loan of \$10,000,000 to be secured by warehouse receipts on sisal (henequen) stored by the association in the State-owned cotton terminal in this city. The negotiations have been going on for several months past, and the announcement of their successful culmination means the establishment in New Orleans of an important spot market for sisal. It also marks an important step forward by New Orleans bankers, who, chiefly through the heavy domestic demands upon them, have been rather reluctant to enter the foreign-loan field.

New Orleans has been the chief entry port for American imports of sisal for nearly a decade, the proportion moving through this port having risen from 13,202 tons out of a total of 100,301 tons imported in 1905 to 55,629 tons out of a total of 99,966 tons in 1910, and 95,331 tons out of a total of 185,764 tons in 1915. Heretofore this has been almost entirely a transit business, however, the fiber moving into the interior almost immediately. The Henequen Growers Association intends to market the product of the members direct to the consumer, and to this end will carry a stock valued at \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 in this city.

Steamer Service Arranged—Growers Now Control Marketing.

The great State-owned cotton terminal [described in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Mar. 19, 1914] now in operation makes it possible to store the sisal at a very moderate expense, and the warehouse receipts of this terminal are looked upon by banks as first-class security for loans. Steamship service between New Orleans and the sisal ports has been arranged, and it is planned to rush shipments to New Orleans as rapidly as possible.

This step on the part of the Yucatan sisal growers is the result of efforts which they have been making for several years to obtain more control of the marketing of their product. Some years ago the planters organized the Regulador del Mercado de Henequin, an association designed to support the selling price of sisal. The measures adopted by this association, while bringing some increase in the market price, did not fully satisfy the members, with the result that the present selling organization was decided on.

The general manager of the association is Mr. Julio Rendon, formerly general manager of the Yucatan railways. Associated with him in handling the negotiations were his brother, Dr. Victor A. Rendon, and Mr. Francisco R. Villavicencio, Mexican consul in New Orleans. Gen. Salvador Alvarado, Governor of Yucatan, has been one of the prime movers in the enterprise.

The run of blueback salmon in waters tributary to the Alaska stations of the United States Bureau of Fisheries has been declining for the past four years. The shortage at Afognak is attributed primarily to the presence of large deposits of volcanic ash as a result of the eruption of Mount Katmai in 1912. The increasing number of traps has affected Yes Bay and Yes Lake.

LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEES COMMENDED BY SECRETARY.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield commended several employees of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses during October for acts performed by them under circumstances in which lives or property were in danger. Assistance rendered disabled motor boats, fire fighting on a towboat, aid given to a blazing gasoline schooner, and rescues from drowning brought the several letter of recognition. These events occurred at points far apart, which were, respectively, in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Illinois, North Carolina, Alaska, and New Jersey. The persons commended and the special acts recognized were:

Mr. Walter Ottosen, keeper, and Mr. Royal G. Petersen, second assistant keeper, Pilot Island Light Station, Wis., for assistance rendered on September 4, 1915, to a disabled motor boat with three persons aboard off Pilot Island, Wis.

Mr. Joseph B. McCabe, keeper, and Mr. Elnor C. Mott, assistant keeper, Deer Island Light Station, Mass., for assistance rendered on September 22 to the power boat *Madeline*, with four persons aboard, which had become disabled off Deer Island Light Station.

Capt. John P. Johnson, commanding the lighthouse tender *Cypress*, and the other officers of the tender, for assistance rendered on September 22 in aiding to extinguish a fire on the towboat *Henry Buck* in Charleston Harbor, S. C.

Mr. Severin M. Danielsen, keeper of Chicago Harbor Light Station, Ill., for assistance rendered on September 26, 1915, to five men who had difficulty in reaching the shore from the pier at the light station.

Mr. Isaac C. Meekins, assistant keeper of Croatan Light Station, N. C., for the rescue from drowning of Mr. Peter G. Gallop, keeper of the light station.

Capt. William E. Gregory, commanding the lighthouse tender *Kukui*, for assistance rendered by the *Kukui* on September 29 to the gasoline schooner *P. J. Abler*, which was on fire at Juneau, Alaska.

Mr. Alex Johnson, keeper of Ship John Shoal Light Station, N. J., for assistance rendered by him to a launch which was discovered to be in a disabled and leaky condition off Ship John Shoal Light Station, N. J.

DUNDEE'S TRADE WITH UNITED STATES.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Dundee, Scotland, Oct. 16.]

The value of the trade of Dundee with the United States and dependencies for the quarter ended September 30, 1915, was (inclusive of returned American goods) \$1,960,426, as compared with \$2,743,118 in the corresponding three months of last year. There was thus a considerable decrease, but as offsetting this it should be borne in mind that in the 1914 quarter there was one full month of the prewar period and that during August, 1914, there was a tremendous rush to ship goods ordered before the outbreak of hostilities.

The decrease extends throughout the list, the most notable being in jute bagging for cotton, of which in the September quarter of 1914 the value was \$297,837, whereas in the past quarter it had shrunk to \$74,112. Another big drop occurred in burlaps, which decreased from \$1,422,278 to \$1,002,610. The value of linen goods was \$359,738, as compared with \$423,100 in the corresponding quarter of 1914.

Porto Rico's share in the trade for the quarter just ended was \$25,190 (bags, \$15,838; other jute manufactures, \$9,352); Hawaii's, \$1,168 (whisky); and that of the Philippine Islands, \$2,402 (flax fabrics).

SOUTH AFRICA AS A BEEF-PRODUCING COUNTRY.*[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg.]*

It is confidently thought by many well-informed persons in South Africa that this country is destined to become one of the great beef-producing countries of the world. Under normal conditions there has been every reason to believe that South Africa would in time assume considerable prominence as a supplier of certain grades of beef for the European markets, but the conditions brought about by the war appear to be hastening the day when this expectation will be realized and that, as a result, this country may before very long become a keen competitor with Australia and Argentina in supplying the world's big markets with this commodity.

Owing to the extraordinary demand for beef, it is stated that the rise in prices has already enabled South African meat to obtain a footing in the London and other markets [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 20, 1915], and there are now indications that there will be a steady increase of these exports, provided South African producers pay due attention to market requirements.

Industry Will Require Time for Development.

There has of late been considerable newspaper and other discussion on the subject of the export of beef from South Africa, and Government experts have not been slow in giving expression to their views in regard to this trade. While it is held that this country can not expect to suddenly jump into prominence in the exportation of beef, it is felt that the steady growth of the beef industry in South Africa is assured, conditional on the proper efforts made to build up suitable herds of cattle, the establishment of the requisite packing plants, etc.

It is admittedly true that the class of animals marketed for beef in South Africa is unsuitable for the English market under normal conditions, although considerable improvement in quality has taken place within the past four or five years. Small shipments of prime beef from South Africa are now possible, but any extensive supply from this market would at present necessarily have to be of inferior grades, of which there is a large available surplus. It is said that the quality of meat this country can export is bringing in the London market fully twice as much as it does in Johannesburg, which is by far the biggest cattle and general produce market in South Africa.

Railway and Shipping Facilities Lacking.

In a thoughtful article on the beef-export question a local writer states:

Meat export can not be successful if the facilities for slaughtering, refrigerating, and transport by rail and sea are inadequate. However large the demand, no matter how attractive the market prices, and however able South African farmers may be to supply the demand, the industry could not be started on a large scale at once.

The South African Railway does not possess a sufficient number of refrigerator trucks. These will, of course, be put on the rails as soon as the Railway Department is assured of an adequate trade. Shipping presents a bigger difficulty, as it is extremely difficult to get space even at the high rates prevailing. As an opportunity for the establishment of what must become one of South Africa's greatest industries is so favorable, doubtless the Government will take steps to secure the provision of necessary facilities.

The industry is one that will benefit the country as a whole, and not one particular section.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE FAIR.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Sept. 22.]

A trade fair to promote the sale of British goods and those of the allies was held in Sydney during the past 18 days under the auspices of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce.

One week during the fair was observed as "Australia week," at which time merchants were urged to make window displays wholly of Australian goods. The fair was largely in the interest of Australian manufacturers, although there were creditable exhibits of goods manufactured in the United Kingdom. There was a booth devoted to the products of France, such as toilet articles; a Belgian booth, where guns and firearms were exhibited; a Japanese booth, where glassware and surgical instruments and various other lines were displayed; and an Italian booth, where Italian wines were shown; but these exhibits were of minor importance compared with those of Australia.

There is a great tendency toward making Australia more of a manufacturing country and less dependent on foreign markets for manufactured goods. There is a feeling that the national resources of the Commonwealth should be developed to a greater extent. The two serious handicaps toward carrying out such projects are the distance from European markets and the high scale of wages in effect here. During "Australia week" one saw such signs as "We grow rich by utilizing our own resources;" "Support Australian interests and they will support you;" "More factories, more work, more wealth;" "By supplying our own wants we build up our nation."

HOLD-SPACE FOR AMERICAN COTTON.

[Extract from the Japan Chronicle for Sept. 17, transmitted by Consul George N. West, Kobe, Japan.]

At the final conference on Saturday between representatives of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and Toyo Kisen Kaisha on the one side and leading cotton merchants on the other, the much-discussed question of providing adequate tonnage for the importation of American cotton was settled for the time being, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and Toyo Kisen Kaisha agreeing to place some extra steamers at the disposal of cotton merchants who approved the freight of 75 cents per 100 kin (100 kin=132.27 pounds) offered by the two steamship companies. As to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, it was agreed between the parties that the company, being at the present moment unable to allot any extra steamers for the transportation of American cotton, should send two extra steamers in January and February next to Galveston for 50,000 bales of cotton to be brought to Japan via Panama, the freight to be fixed after further consideration by the Nippon Yusen.

On Wednesday the steamship company notified cotton traders that it was not prepared to undertake the transportation of American cotton via Panama at less than \$1.25 per 100 pounds—a figure which the merchants had previously claimed was too high. The cotton traders have, therefore, broken off negotiations with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and have decided to take other steps to satisfy their requirements.

YEAR'S RECORD OF ITALIAN TOBACCO MONOPOLY.

[Consul William F. Kelley, Rome, Italy, Sept. 14.]

The Italian Government's tobacco monopoly is one of the most remunerative sources of revenue for the Kingdom. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, the latest for which official figures are available, the total income from this source was \$67,511,852, an increase over the banner year 1912-13 of \$3,235,567. It exceeds the estimated income from this monopoly by \$3,435,852. The customs revenue on foreign manufactured tobacco imported into the Kingdom for the use of individuals amounted to \$26,441. Adding this to the revenue derived from the sale of tobacco, the total revenue from this monopoly amounts to \$67,538,294.

New regulations, established by decree of January 4, 1914, increased the prices of all tobacco, with the exception of snuff, by 40 per cent. There was a decrease in consumption of 1,847,982 pounds, and an increase in revenue of \$3,209,125. This increase in revenue is due partly to wider use of the better grades.

Receipts from Tobacco Industry for Year.

The receipts from the tobacco industry during the year amounted to \$446,166,874, of which the customs duties on private importations amounted to \$26,441; sales in Italy, \$444,438,056; exportation, \$1,016,881; sales to colonies and occupied territories, \$517,401; and sales on shipboard, \$168,093.

The revenue from sales in Italy was made up of the items: Cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, and snuff, \$398,777,572; insecticides and extracts, \$45,660,484. Compared with the figures of the preceding year, there was a clear increase of \$3,033,135.

Among the regions where the greatest quantity of tobacco is consumed, Venice holds first place, with an annual per capita consumption of 39.255 ounces. The district of minimum consumption is Ascoli Piceno, with a per capita consumption of 8.50 ounces. The average consumption per capita throughout the Kingdom was 20.06 ounces, or a decrease of 1.87 ounces per capita, as compared with the preceding year, when the consumption per capita was 21.93 ounces. The per capita revenue from the monopoly throughout the Kingdom was \$4.07 as the maximum, and 76 cents as the minimum, the former in the Province of Leghorn, the latter in the Province of Sondrio.

Italian cultivation of tobacco has decreased in late years. During the year under consideration there were 173,571,086 plants in Italy, a decrease of 917,274 plants from the preceding year. The growers are subject to many rules and regulations. Permission to cultivate tobacco must be obtained from the Government, and the cultivation is under the control of the excise office. The tobacco so grown must be either sold to the Government at an appraised price or exported within three years.

Of the 23,456.7 long tons (long ton=2,240 pounds) of foreign-grown and manufactured tobacco for the year 1913-14, amounting in value to \$8,219,886, 16,242.6 tons were from the United States, 6,171.8 from the Orient, and 1,042.3 from various other countries.

Cause of Increased Imports from United States.

Increased importation of tobacco from the United States is due to its very good quality, and also to diminished cultivation of tobacco in

the Near East, where Italy previously purchased large quantities. The bulk of the importation from the United States into this Kingdom is composed of Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland varieties. The purchase price of tobacco from the Orient was \$594.81 per long ton, as compared with \$533.68 for the preceding year.

The purchases of tobacco in the United States for the Italian Government are made directly by the Government agents stationed in New York.

The operation and maintenance of the many departments connected with this monopoly for the year 1913-14 cost \$17,578,927, compared with \$17,919,678 for 1912-13, an increase of \$340,751. Salaries of employees were increased by \$238,408, and new machinery for the factories cost \$91,619. Deducting operating expenses, purchase of foreign tobaccos, and overhead expenses from the gross sales of \$446,166,874, the monopoly gave a net revenue of \$51,796,712 to the Government for 1913-14. In the expenses are included the monopoly's contributions for the maintenance of the revenue service, frontier service, etc.

At the end of the fiscal year under review the value of the stock on hand was: Unmanufactured tobacco, \$17,765,312; manufactured tobacco, \$2,293,574; total, \$20,058,886.

MARKET FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES IN PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 27.]

Portugal has been buying its supply of photographic apparatus and paper from England, France, and Germany. According to the latest statistics the annual importations are: Plates—from England, \$19,910; France, \$9,394; Germany, \$6,613; total, \$35,917. Paper—from England, \$14,919; France, \$5,720; Germany, \$3,966; total, \$24,605. Cameras—from Germany, \$17,182; France, \$5,954; England, \$3,054; total, \$26,190.

The type of camera most commonly in use is a folding camera made in Germany. The popular size is 9 by 12 centimeters (approximately 3½ by 4½ inches), which sells for \$20 to \$30. The English paper and plates known as "Imperial" are held in high esteem. American kodaks and films are on sale at the photographic supply houses throughout Portugal. The usual terms are 90 days, with 2 per cent discount for cash.

At the present moment dealers and photographers are not buying large stocks and are holding off for improved conditions. It is advisable, however, for American manufacturers to get in touch with the market, which may be a more attractive one later on.

[A list of the leading dealers in photographic supplies at Lisbon and Oporto may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67640.]

The large runs of chinook salmon that have appeared in the Columbia River during the past three years were again in evidence this season. It is believed by the United States Bureau of Fisheries that many of the eggs secured by the Little White and Big White salmon stations will be available for transfer to other stations for development.

RUSSIAN COTTON MARKET AND ACREAGE.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Sept. 18; from Trade and Industry Gazette for Aug. 22.]

On the Moscow cotton market prices have recently fallen considerably. First-quality Ferghana cotton is to be had at 28 or 28.50 rubles per pood (\$199.65 to \$203.21 per bale of 500 pounds), while not long ago prices were 30 or 31 rubles per pood (\$213.90 to \$221.03 per bale). It is true that these prices are almost nominal, as there has remained hardly any first-quality Ferghana cotton on the market. No doubt a considerable rôle is being played here by the undecided question of making a norm of prices and the uncertainty about the level on which these prices will be settled.

The factories do not dare to pay high prices on the eve of their being put down to a norm. Of not less importance, however, is the considerable augmentation of stock in hand in Moscow. In the last few days railway cars with cotton have been arriving at Moscow much more frequently than before. Cotton merchants, emphasizing this fact, state that prices are falling automatically in consequence of these arrivals on the market.

The factories, on the other hand, endeavor to buy in good time as much American cotton as possible. With this aim they have put a petition before the Minister of Finance, requesting him urgently to place foreign currency at their disposal. A favorable decision has been reached on this petition.

Another factor, contributing to the falling of prices, has been cotton from Khiva, which has just begun to come to Moscow. The quality of its fiber is as good as that of the highest sorts of Ferghana cotton. There were years when Khiva cotton was priced at about 50 kopecks per pood (\$0.36 per bale) higher than Ferghana first quality, but lately its quality has somewhat fallen off.

At present less business is being transacted on the Moscow market. There have been some transactions, chiefly in second and third qualities, of which there is still a sufficient quantity. There have also been transactions in cotton of the new crop, but without prices, as the extreme prices that will be fixed by the Moscow committee are not yet known. In general, one observes that there are buyers of new crop and sellers of the old one. There is still a great demand and need for Egyptian cotton.

Condition of Cotton Plantations in Transcaucasia.

According to information published by the statistical bureau of the Imperial Caucasian Society of Agriculture the sowing period has not been favorable this year in Transcaucasia. With a few exceptions there was heavy rainfall over the whole country during April and May. The weather was cold, the temperature sometimes falling below the freezing point. Especially on the Mugan newly cultivated lands have been spoiled by the flooding of enormous areas. The sowing period extended over nearly three months: April, May, and June. In several districts of the Erivan, Elisavetpol, Baku, and Tiflis Governments the sowing took place very late, and hardly anywhere was it done early.

Bad weather prevailed during nearly the whole spring. Cold in April destroyed a large quantity of early cotton sowings in many

districts. Nearly all the sowings made in the first half of April suffered from cold and frosts. Injurious insects were observed in all cotton-growing districts.

In the second half of June the condition of the plantations in the different Governments was as follows:

Governments.	Good.	Middling.	Bad.	Governments.	Good.	Middling.	Bad.
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>		<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Erivan.....	27	54	19	Tiflis.....	0	33.3	66.7
Elisavetpol.....	36.5	54	9.5	Kutais.....	7.7	46.2	46.1
Baku.....	31.4	51.4	17.2				

Cotton Area Sown in 1915.

The area of cotton sowings in Transcaucasia was reduced this year by 10-15 to 50-80 per cent. The largest reductions took place in the districts of Surmalinsk, Etchmiadzin, Erivan, Aresh, Elisavetpol, Kazak, Bortchalinsk, and Tiflis. The fewest reductions have been in the districts of Nakhitchevan, Sharuro-Daralaghez, Zanzegursk, and Geogtchaisk. In the Shusha district the sown area was somewhat extended, because the cultivation of cotton suffered less there last year than in other places, and because the Moscow Commercial and Industrial Society supplied seed to the inhabitants and usually bought up the local cotton.

The following approximate figures are given for the area sown in Transcaucasia in 1915, compared with the average for the last four years: 1911-1914.

Governments.	Average.		Governments.	Average.	
	1911-1914	1915		1911-1914	1915
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Erivan.....	104,547	81,000	Kutais.....	6,701	1,750
Elisavetpol.....	137,516	97,000	Total.....	337,852	249,050
Baku.....	74,936	65,000			
Tiflis.....	14,152	4,300			

Under normal conditions the crop from an area of 259,000 to 262,000 acres can be about 108,000 bales of cotton fiber.

TASMANIA ORE COMPANY CONTRACTS FOR ELECTRICITY.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Aug. 31.]

The directors of the Complex Ores Co. (Ltd.) have contracted with the hydroelectric department of the State of Tasmania for the use of a large amount of electricity. This company was organized several years ago to treat zinciferous ores and manufacture carbides. As the process requires cheap power, the concern organized the Hydroelectric Power Co. here, but after spending a large amount of money on the construction of a power plant it was found that sufficient capital could not be secured to complete the work. The unfinished electric-power plant was therefore sold to the State of Tasmania and is now being completed by the State.

MANUFACTURE AND CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO IN EGYPT.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Sept. 7.]

Tobacco as a raw material and in a manufactured state finds a place in Egyptian commerce and industry almost exclusively in the production and marketing of the Egyptian cigarette. The making of cigarettes in Egypt, which is primarily an agricultural country, is the only manufacturing industry of importance. Although Egypt is fitted both in climate and soil for the cultivation of tobacco, its entire supply of leaf tobacco comes from abroad. The growing of tobacco in Egypt is prohibited.

All manufactured tobacco from the United States and other countries having no special agreement with Egypt affecting tobacco, pays a duty in Egypt of 420 milliemmes per kilo (\$0.95 per pound). Manufactured tobacco from countries having such special agreements is subject to a duty of only 400 milliemmes per kilo (\$0.905 per pound).

Leaf tobacco from the United States and other countries of the first category pays an import duty of 320 milliemmes per kilo (\$0.724 per pound), while imports from countries having special agreements are dutiable at 300 milliemmes per kilo (\$0.68 per pound). Stemmed leaf is placed in the same category as manufactured tobacco. Leaf tobacco reexported in the shape of cigarettes is entitled to a drawback of 100 milliemmes per kilo (\$0.225 per pound).

Imports and Exports—Manufacture Limited to Cigarettes.

Imports of leaf tobacco into Egypt during 1913 (figures for 1914, on account of the abnormal conditions imposed by the war, should not be used as a criterion for deductions) from various countries of origin were as follows:

Imported from—	Pounds.	Value.	Imported from—	Pounds.	Value.
Austria	227, 210	\$46, 287	Italy	545	\$75
Bulgaria	221, 315	50, 090	Roumania	16, 867	2, 280
China	146, 562	16, 592	Russia	4, 306, 497	1, 169, 698
United States	3, 128	205	Serbia	54, 848	7, 445
French Mediterranean possessions	19, 169	2, 625	Turkey	5, 794, 307	1, 967, 243
Greece	7, 235, 592	1, 801, 520	Total	18, 926, 040	5, 064, 048

Tobacco is smoked almost exclusively in the form of cigarettes and cigars. The manufacture of tobacco in Egypt is limited to cigarettes. Its extent may be judged by the imports of leaf tobacco. An approximation of the extent of the annual consumption may be obtained by making the necessary deductions from imports of leaf, exports of cigarettes, and imports of cigars and tobacco in other forms, as set forth in the following résumé for the year 1913:

Kinds of tobacco.	Pounds.	Value.
IMPORTS.		
Leaf tobacco	18, 026, 040	\$5, 064, 048
Cigars	155, 363	91, 362
All other tobacco	136, 862	66, 068
EXPORTS.		
Cigarettes	1, 068, 467	1, 970, 940

The limited field in Egypt for the sale of manufactured tobacco other than cigarettes would hardly warrant its manufacture there on any larger scale. The native smokes cigarettes and tombac. Tombac is a mixture of tobacco and other ingredients and is smoked in the water pipe. The local Greeks and Italians, of whom there are large colonies, smoke cigarettes and the cheaper grades of cigars. The higher grades of cigars and pipetobacco are smoked by the better class of Europeans.

AMERICAN TRAFFIC WITH GREENLAND.

American commercial interest in Greenland rests wholly in obtaining supplies of cryolite from there. The quarries at Ivigtut, at the southern extremity of the land, furnish nearly all the cryolite used in the world. Mining operations there were described in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for April 11, 1914. The United States is now importing greater quantities of this cryolite, its use being in manufacturing opaque glaze for enameling ironware (the imports of which from Europe are now cut off), and in fluxes for electrolytic aluminum and white Portland cement. Imports were only 36 tons in 1910 (when the price averaged \$65 per ton), but went up to 2,007 tons (average \$23.46 in 1911). Imports advanced steadily to 2,157 tons (average \$22 per ton) in the fiscal year 1914, and to 4,569 tons (average \$20) in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915.

Cryolite seems to be the only article shipped from Greenland to the United States. Greenland sent to Denmark in 1913, \$486,000 worth of whale and seal oil; fox, seal, and other skins, eiderdown, and cryolite. The statistics of the United States do not show the shipment of any American goods to Greenland, but the 14,000 inhabitants of that country bought \$212,700 worth of merchandise in Denmark in 1913. The trade of Greenland is a State monopoly, directed by the Royal Danish Greenland Company of Copenhagen.

The villages of Greenland are Upernivik (said to be the world's most northern settlement), Godhavn (generally recognized as the capital), Egedesminde, Sukkertoppen, Christianshaab, Jakobshavn, Umanak, Godthaab, Frederikshaab, Julianshaab, and Ivigtut.

Regarding the scientific interest in Greenland the following from the last edition of the International Yearbook summarizes the present explorations and researches:

Apart from MacMillan's scientific work in the Cape York region, Rasmussen has continued his ethnographical and other researches in that district. He also made arrangements for his North-Polar expedition of 1915, when Cape York will be made the home station. Under the direction and inspiration of the efficient Greenland Commission, Denmark has continued its exploration of fauna, flora, ethnology, and geology of Greenland. A knowledge and appreciation of the value of such extended researches has been limited among other nations, owing to the text of the volumes of the "Meddeleiser" (the official publication) being in Danish. In 1914, however, under the editorship of W. Thalbitzer, there were compiled and correlated all available ethnographical data relative to the Ammassalik Eskimo, natives of the east coast. This volume appears in English, and is published in Copenhagen at the expense of the Carlsberg Fund. It treats of the environment, climate, material and intellectual culture, social life, beliefs, character, traits, hunting weapons, dress and ornament, toys, music, housekeeping, and social customs of the Ammassaliks. These natives practically pertain to the stone age period, which makes this memoir valuable to ethnologists.

FOREIGN TRADE OF ITALY FOR FIRST QUARTER.

[Consul William F. Kelley, Rome, Sept. 23.]

The following statistics for the first three months of 1915 have been compiled from official figures just made public by the Minister of Finance. They show the position of Italy in the world's markets on the eve of its entry into the European conflict, in May, 1915.

During the period under consideration the total value of merchandise imported into Italy was \$125,236,342; exports for the same period were \$120,604,158, excluding the import and export of precious metals. The total foreign trade amounted to \$245,840,500, as against \$287,031,033 for the corresponding period of 1914, a decrease of \$41,190,533. Imports decreased approximately \$37,963,000 and exports \$3,228,000.

The bulk of Italy's foreign trade for the period under consideration was with Austria-Hungary, Germany, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, the United States, and Argentina, and during this period 80 per cent of its foreign trade was carried on with them, as shown by the following comparative table. The remaining 20 per cent, not being pertinent to the present analysis, is omitted.

Countries.	Imports from.		Exports to.	
	First three months, 1914.	First three months, 1915.	First three months, 1914.	First three months, 1915.
United States.....	\$23,910,000	\$46,240,000	\$12,285,000	\$13,780,000
Argentina.....	270,000	7,797,000	7,742,000	4,342,000
Austria-Hungary.....	11,483,000	3,956,000	11,387,000	12,130,000
England.....	27,192,000	18,778,000	14,630,000	16,096,000
France.....	13,885,000	5,906,000	12,102,000	16,504,000
Germany.....	29,142,000	15,034,000	31,033,000	23,140,000
Switzerland.....	3,581,000	2,702,000	12,796,000	10,958,000
Total.....	109,443,000	100,412,000	102,034,000	96,654,000

From the foregoing it will be seen that imports from the United States nearly doubled. This is due principally to the increased importation of wheat, that item alone representing 84½ per cent of the excess of \$22,330,000 from the United States, and 40½ per cent of the total imports from that country.

The enormous increase in imports from Argentina is also due to large purchases of wheat and cereals.

The falling off in imports from Austria-Hungary during the period under consideration is due to smaller importations of wood pulp and embargoes on other articles that Italy formerly imported.

SHEFFIELD'S SALES TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul John M. Savage, Sheffield, England, Oct. 4.]

Sheffield's sales to the United States in the quarter ended September 30 last had a declared value of \$487,547. In the corresponding three months of 1914 the total was \$628,911. This 22 per cent decrease was distributed through all of the principal items entering into the trade, the cutlery invoiced at this consulate for shipment to the United States amounting to \$60,301, as against \$107,672 in the third quarter of 1914; electroplate and silverware, \$900, against \$10,973; horn, pearl, etc., \$11,809, against \$20,903; platinum, nil, against \$25,366; and steel and manufactures of, \$392,660, against \$446,202.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Hardware, No. 19051.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a man in his district is in the market for nails, wire screens, and clamping bolts. Correspondence should be in Italian. Freight rates are desired with quotations.

Vulcanized fiber, No. 19052.—The Bureau has been informed by an American consular officer in Australia that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers or wholesale dealers in vulcanized fiber, similar to sample which may be examined at the Bureau or at its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 67775.)

Paper, No. 19053.—A commercial organization in the United States transmits the name of a firm in South America which desires to be put in touch with paper manufacturers. The firm is particularly interested in paper for daily papers and publications.

Timber and building materials, No. 19054.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a firm in that country desires to buy timber and building materials, to sell in Holland and colonies. The firm would pay cash against documents, with 2 per cent discount, or three months' time. References are given.

X-ray apparatuses and accessories, No. 19055.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a man in his district wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of X-ray apparatuses and accessories. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Forwarding, and warehouses, No. 19056.—A commercial bank in southern Russia writes the Bureau that it has enlarged its forwarding department and is now in a position to take care of all parcels for the southern part of Russia. The bank also states that it has large warehouses in which could be stored such goods as are purchased now and which it is impossible to have shipped at present.

Candle-making material, No. 19057.—An American consular officer in an insular possession reports that a man in his district desires samples and prices of raw material suitable for the manufacture of candles. He is especially interested in wax substitute and kindred imitations used in candle making. Samples may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. Correspondence should be in Portuguese, if possible. (Refer to file No. 67772.)

Machinery, electric lamps, etc., No. 19058.—A commercial organization in the United States transmits the name of a man in Spain who desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of sewing-machine supplies and needles; knitting-machine needles and accessories, electric lamps; and machinery. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Leather, No. 19059.—An American consular officer in Holland reports that a firm in his district wishes to buy sole and soft leather for shoes. The firm proposes to pay cash, less 3 per cent, on receipt of the goods. Reference is given.

Phonograph records, No. 19060.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in South America that a firm in his district wishes the agency for small phonograph records. Catalogues should be sent. Correspondence is preferred in Spanish or Italian, but English may be used. The firm will pay cash.

Sodium sulphate, or salt cake, No. 19061.—An American consular officer in Italy writes that a firm in his district desires to be placed in communication with American chemical manufacturers who produce sodium sulphate or salt cake.

Steel products, enameled ware, glassware, etc., No. 19062.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in the Netherlands that a firm in that country wishes to correspond with American manufacturers of steel products; tools; axles; bars; plantation tools; small ironware, such as hooks, padlocks, and wire nails; axes; hatchets; flexible wire; galvanized wire; enameled ware; and glassware. References are given.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Heating and ventilating apparatus, No. 2754.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., heating and ventilating apparatus for the west main cell wing. Copies of specifications and further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Dredging, No. 2755.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., for dredging slip at Buffalo Lighthouse Depot, South Pier, Buffalo Harbor, N. Y. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Construction work, No. 2756.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Customhouse, Memphis, Tenn., until November 6, 1915, for constructing about 90,000 cubic yards of earthwork. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2757.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 10, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone, Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel window frames and doors, galvanized steel or iron, spring steel, steel drill rods, wire cable, wire, horseshoes, nails, boat spikes, nuts, bolts, turnbuckles, joining shackles, missing links, cable clips, reamers, twist drills, sheet copper, sheet brass, bronze bars, yellow metal, bronze wire, cloth, zinc plate, solder, lead pipe, pipe fittings, ferrules, foot valves, cocks, kitchen sinks, shovels, wheelbarrows, harness, basile leather, rubber tires, manila rope, oakum, and sandpaper. Circular No. 985.

Azimuth instruments, No. 2758.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until November 11, 1915, for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. contractor's works, Warner & Swasey azimuth instruments, model of 1910. Drawings may be examined at the Washington office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2759.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 17, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, cast-iron keel blocks, cast-iron bilge-block slides, garbage incinerator, drill press, lathe, steel tubing, spring plates, nails, rivets, staples, pipe fittings, water-closets, sheet lead, holystones, currying brushes, plate glass, air-brake hose, leather, and lard oil. Circular No. 988.

Landscape gardening, No. 2760.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 13, 1915, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal building at Steelton, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the custodian of the building or at the Washington office.

Iron and steel scrap, No. 2761.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 22, 1915, for the purchase of miscellaneous iron and steel scrap which is no longer needed. Circular No. 986.

Construction work, No. 2762.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 4, 1915, for constructing one reinforced concrete power house, one reinforced concrete operating building, and one wooden double quarters for chief operator at the Naval Station, Pearl Harbor. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., or to the commandant of the above-named naval station.

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EXPORTS FROM LONDON TO UNITED STATES.

The total value of the articles invoiced through the American consulate general at London, England, for the United States during October was \$11,645,565, compared with \$11,819,822 for September. The shipments of rubber were valued at \$3,000,720, against \$3,006,796 for September; precious stones, \$1,523,038, against \$1,077,214; wool, \$884,648, against \$563,503; hides, \$725,909, against \$689,806; and furs, \$676,756, against \$452,729.

CENTRAL AMERICA—WEST INDIES TRADE DIRECTORY.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has just issued a "Trade Directory of Central America and the West Indies," presenting lists of merchants and importers, arranged by countries and cities and classes of business. The book, which contains 256 pages, has been prepared to meet a popular demand for such a publication, and the Bureau has aimed to make it of material assistance to American business houses in developing their trade with those countries. It is similar in scope to the trade directory of South America, which has been widely circulated by the Bureau. An interesting feature of the book is the use of descriptive material relating to each of the countries represented and to the principal cities, giving port statistics, chief products, imports and exports, mail and telegraph facilities, population, area, and any other facts that may be of interest to persons or companies aiming to extend their business relations into that part of the world.

A classification schedule affords the means of finding without delay lists of dealers interested in any particular commodity which is not of sufficient importance to be classified in alphabetical order in the trade lists. An additional convenience is the making of subclassifications, as in the case of "fresh and dried fruits," under which importers and exporters are given separately, and "furniture and fittings," a class which is divided into "general" and "office" furniture.

Copies of the directory may be obtained at 60 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

AMERICAN TRADE FOR LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending October 30, 1915, at the 13 principal customs districts of the United States, handling 91 per cent of the total imports and exports, based on transactions in the month of August, 1915, follow:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah)	\$18, 173	\$591	\$1, 232, 686
Massachusetts (Boston)	4, 216, 549	239, 407	7, 115, 994
New York	17, 946, 977	2, 677, 424	48, 716, 715
Philadelphia	1, 391, 791	241, 939	3, 062, 899
Maryland (Baltimore)	446, 226	31, 541	2, 032, 389
Virginia (Norfolk)	91, 789	9, 275	676, 766
New Orleans	1, 266, 669	15, 933	3, 662, 621
Galveston	21, 917	1, 051	4, 692, 679
San Francisco	1, 634, 879	61, 743	1, 764, 975
Washington (Seattle)	2, 783, 276	19, 111	796, 788
Buffalo	1, 005, 479	57, 867	1, 739, 354
Chicago	784, 800	157, 303	103, 960
Michigan (Detroit)	735, 498	27, 482	3, 423, 345
Total	32, 334, 043	3, 540, 656	74, 670, 952

The cotton exported during the week ended October 30, 1915, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia	10, 522	Virginia	
Massachusetts	183	Galveston	64, 431
Maryland		New Orleans	21, 563
New York	7, 627	San Francisco	
North Carolina	11, 604	Washington	11, 587
Philadelphia		Total	127, 587
South Carolina			

MARKET FOR CORN IN SAN LUIS POTOSI.

[Consul Wilbert L. Bonney, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Oct. 25.]

Corn is now selling in San Luis Potosi for the equivalent of \$1.17 per bushel, United States currency, and there is an active demand at that price, and even at a higher figure. This consulate is informed that American corn can be delivered in Laredo, Tex., for \$0.75 per bushel, in car lots. If shipping facilities and guaranty of safe arrival could be secured there is a market in San Luis Potosi for several trainloads. Points between here and the border can also be supplied at a profit.

Money for the purchase of corn seems plentiful here, and every incoming car is immediately disposed of. There would be little difficulty in turning the local money into American exchange for payment for corn. The district to the south and west, whence supplies have been secured, has been drawn upon by Mexico City recently and the prices have risen above the American markets during the last month. Import duties upon corn were removed by decree of September 29, 1915.

Canadian imports of merchandise totaled \$417,272,203 during the 12 months ended September 30, 1915, compared with \$531,853,489 the year previous.

CHINA PLANS INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

[London and China Telegraph, Oct. 18.]

The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce has decided to include an additional sum of \$15,000,000 in the budget estimates for the next year for the purpose of pushing the development of industrial and commercial undertakings. This sum is proposed to be apportioned as follows: (1) The establishment and equipment of a model industrial factory, \$6,000,000; (2) the establishment of various kinds of working depots for experimental purposes, \$1,000,000; (3) subsidies and rewards for the encouragement of industrial and commercial enterprises, mining operations, fishery, and cattle-breeding business, \$4,000,000; (4) initial expenses for the improvement of agricultural methods, \$3,000,000; (5) initial expenses for the improvement of products for export, \$500,000; (6) provision of funds for the training of experts in various branches of the industrial business. [These amounts represent silver currency, or about one-half the equivalent of United States gold.]

A Chinese merchant named Chow Wen-ching has petitioned the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce for permission to establish a sugar refinery in Peking, to be conducted on foreign lines. It is said that the petition has been granted, and that the work of building will commence immediately.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES YIELD FOR AUGUST.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, Oct. 20.]

The value of the fishing catch of British Columbia for August, 1915, amounted to \$433,614 for the southern district, \$1,269,551 for the northern district, and \$193,115 for the Vancouver Island district, making a total of \$1,896,280, as compared with the production of \$1,898,528 for the corresponding month of the previous year, a decrease of \$2,248. The British Columbia production amounted to more than 50 per cent of the total Canadian production for that period.

The salmon taken in the southern district amounted to \$366,827 in value; in the northern district to \$1,136,191; in the Vancouver Island district to \$173,466—a total of \$1,676,484, compared with \$1,792,042 in the corresponding period of 1914.

PICKLING ONIONS FOR ENGLAND.

[From report of Canadian trade commissioner at Birmingham, England, Oct. 7.]

Over \$6,000,000 worth of onions are imported annually by the United Kingdom, among which are large quantities of small onions used by picklers. Consignments have arrived from Canada in past years, and sales could be considerably augmented if the smaller onions were selected for this market. The sizes in common demand range from 1 to 2 inches in diameter, and they are preferred unpeeled, in bags containing 100 pounds.

The British imports of onions during the year 1914-15 totaled \$7,403,865, of which Spain supplied \$4,627,520 worth; Egypt, \$1,049,160; Netherlands, \$972,110; France, \$105,000; Portugal, \$381,995; and the United States, \$85,205.

ARGENTINA TO BUILD GRAIN ELEVATORS.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 29, supplementing report published Sept. 28.]

The President of Argentina sent a message to Congress on September 18 recommending the passage of a bill to authorize the Executive to contract for the construction of a system of grain elevators at such ports and railway terminals as may be considered advisable. The proposed law contains, briefly, the following provisions:

The number of elevators, their capacity, and their location would be determined by the Executive. The required funds would be furnished by an issue of Government bonds for 50,000,000 paper pesos (\$21,225,600 United States gold) at 5 per cent annual interest and amortization at 1 per cent annually. The Executive would be authorized to call for bids for the construction and working of the elevators, either for the whole system or for certain sections. All materials and machinery needed from abroad would be imported free of duty, and the elevators, with the land on which they were built, would be exempt from all national, provincial, and municipal taxes. All railway companies must agree to construct branch lines connecting their roads with the elevators and furnish proper facilities for carrying grain. Concessions would be granted to the exploiting companies, either local or foreign, for a term of 10 years, renewable for a like period. The Executive would be authorized to make direct contracts for the construction and maintenance of the elevators if satisfactory bids should not be offered or if the terms should be unacceptable. Any difficulties that might arise in connection with the work would be submitted to arbitration.

[According to the Oct. 1 issue of the Review of the River Plate, the regular session of the Argentine Congress closed Sept. 30 without the grain-elevator bill having been passed. The journal states that it is possible an extra session may be called, when the bill may be up for consideration.]

[Review of the River Plate, Oct. 1.]

Proposal of United States Capitalists.

Immediately following the recent presentation to the Argentine Congress of the Government's project for dealing with the grain-elevator problem, an important proposal was made to that body by Dr. Ricardo C. Aldao on behalf of a group of United States capitalists. [Mention of North American interest in the erection of grain elevators in Argentina was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 24, 1915.]

The gist of this proposal is that instead of the Argentine Government paying for the construction of the elevators by means of a 5 per cent bond issue, the syndicate represented by Dr. Aldao would erect the elevators at its own cost, exploiting them thereafter on the basis of terms approved by the Government. At the end of 20 years the entire system would pass to the absolute ownership of the Argentine Government free of any claim. The syndicate asks in return that the Argentine Government should give its guaranty to an issue of 6,000,000 gold pesos [\$5,788,800] in 6 per cent debentures which the syndicate would place. Should the proposal be accepted, the syndicate is prepared to place 25,000,000 gold pesos [\$24,120,000] in Argentina for the exclusive purpose of financing the warrants which the company would issue in terms of the warrant law.

Location of Elevators.

The plan proposed by the syndicate involves the erection of three terminal elevators at the ports of Buenos Aires, Rosario, and Bahia Blanca, respectively, and of 150 rural elevators distributed at strategic points throughout the cereal zones of the Pampa Territory and the Provinces of Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios.

The annual loss to the country through the lack of grain elevators is estimated at 70,000,000 paper pesos [\$29,715,800] by the Government, and this fact sufficiently emphasizes the urgency of the grain-elevator bill now before Congress.

TANNING MATERIALS OF MADAGASCAR.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave, Aug. 23.]

The only tanning material produced in considerable quantity in Madagascar is red mangrove bark. During the past three or four years production has been declining, due to the scarcity of mangrove trees and the consequent closing of large forests to exploitation for a number of years, and, more recently, to transportation difficulties. The two French navigation companies now serving Madagascar always find sufficient freight of a higher class than bark, and consequently it is difficult to obtain shipping space for the latter.

The quantity of bark shipped in 1914 was only 11,406 metric tons, valued at \$132,087, compared with 21,938 tons, valued at \$283,050, in 1913. The maximum quantity shipped was in 1911, when 53,357 tons, valued at \$703,611, were exported. Inasmuch as this bark has not been worked normally during the past year or two, it is probable that important quantities are now obtainable, if a steady demand arises and if arrangements can be made for shipping the product. The only possible way seems to be to send ships to Madagascar in order to take on large cargoes of bark, but in view of the scarcity of available bottoms and the cheapness of the cargo this might be somewhat difficult.

[A list of Madagascar exporters of mangrove bark may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 67481. A description of the bark industry of the island appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Jan. 24, 1912.]

AMERICAN VACUUM CLEANERS IN CANADA.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 15.]

A noticeable feature of the furniture-store window displays in Kingston is the prominence given to vacuum cleaners of American make. With the interruption of supplies from elsewhere American manufacturers have succeeded in establishing their cleaners on a firm footing here. There are to-day a dozen or more business houses selling them, besides several persons acting as individual agents.

The outlook for this class of goods is encouraging. The demand is mostly for a moderate-priced, hand-operated machine retailing for \$12 to \$15, but there is a sale for more expensive ones also. This latter fact was well illustrated by the recent experience of the manager of a large hardware store who, by working with a selected list of the firm's customers, sold 20 cleaners after his corps of 13 clerks had declared the price (\$135) too high for the local trade.

BIG FALLING OFF IN TRADE OF MOMBASA.

[Consul Perry C. Hays, Mombasa, British East Africa, Sept. 2.]

Because of conditions created by the war, foreign commerce passing through the port of Mombasa has been greatly diminished. Imports decreased from \$5,992,854 during the first six months of 1914 to \$3,606,520 in the corresponding period of the present year. Exports fell from \$3,490,921 to \$2,123,856.

The quantity of goods imported bears a close relation to the value of the products exported. As the principal crop, cotton, has not found a ready market, the money ordinarily available for purchasing foreign merchandise has been reduced to a marked degree. The item of hides and skins, which ranks comparatively high in export values, underwent a decline from \$1,126,609 to \$447,993, because of the restricted foreign market. Embargoes on other articles have had an adverse influence on the export and import trade.

The Indian merchants here are manifesting greater interest in direct trade relations with American exporters, but they are confronted with difficulties in the matter of terms of credit and in the lack of adequate shipping facilities between the United States and the East African littoral. Until these handicaps can be overcome no great increase in the trade with America can be expected.

GOCARTS SENT ABROAD CARELESSLY PACKED.

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Italy, Sept. 2.]

There was careless packing in a shipment to this city from Ohio of six gocarts ordered from an American firm in December. The carts are made of wood, rattan, and steel, and each one was packed in a pasteboard box. They were shipped from New York April 8, by a steamer which stopped at a Spanish port and finally arrived at Naples July 7. There they were transshipped, and reached Palermo August 4. All were more or less damaged, but one was so broken that repairs were impossible, and it was returned to the company. This was a small shipment, and crating would have required little time or expenditure of money, but the company either did not care how its goods arrived or was too careless to consider the matter. Goods that were to travel by rail and ship for 5,000 miles, to be transferred from rail to boat, and from one ship to another, and then from the ship to the customhouse, were packed as if the transportation were from a store to a residence in the same city. Such packing not only costs the shipper money for repairs, but discourages the importer from giving future orders.

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

Consul George S. Messersmith, of Fort Erie, Canada, reports that he will be in the United States on leave of absence from November 1, 1915, until January 1, 1916. During November his address will be Lewes, Del., and during the first three weeks of December he will be in Washington, D. C.

Canadian produce exported during the 12 months ended September 30, 1915, aggregated \$474,937,085, against \$424,057,093 for the preceding year.

AMERICAN TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

[Ambassador George T. Marye, Petrograd, July 3.]

There is at present a widespread desire in Russia for direct trade relations with the United States, the opinion strongly prevailing that there should be an elimination of all unnecessary handling of such trade through other countries. It is obvious that the profit on commercial transactions between Russia and the United States, both import and export, until the war broke out, accrued chiefly to intermediary European countries through which the goods passed. While it is undeniable that the services rendered by such firms may have been in many ways mutually convenient and advantageous to American and Russian interests, nevertheless the extra freight charges made necessary by sending the goods to an intermediary country instead of direct to Russia, and also the middlemen's commissions or profits, created such a burdensome extra cost as to result in a serious handicap to Russian-American trade. American firms that should have had not only an extremely large but a highly profitable trade with Russia have allowed the profits to be skimmed off their business and the business itself to be retarded in its development, simply because of being unwilling to do any business in Russia on a credit basis.

Comparative Effectiveness of Indirect and Direct Trade.

The chief articles of import into Russia in which trade has been checked and profits reduced, for both Russian and American firms, have included cotton, cottonseed oil, machine tools, boots and shoes, wood-working machinery, agricultural implements and machinery, automobiles, typewriters and other office appliances, and carbon paper. The only important lines in which American firms have seriously attempted to do a direct business in Russia are agricultural machinery and implements, and sewing machines. An American agricultural-implement concern maintains a large factory near Moscow where various parts can be manufactured, and has warehouses and business offices in every important agricultural center of Russia and Siberia. This company has furnished a splendid example of the advantage of assuming direct charge of its own business interests in this country. An American sewing-machine company has also made a signal success of direct business in Russia, selling many thousands of machines every year, mostly on credit, with a remarkably low percentage of loss.

Export Trade Indirect—Lack of Financial Facilities.

The principal articles of export (mostly indirect) from Russia to the United States have included hides, Russian linens, flax, wax, linseed, hemp, soya beans, sunflower seeds, buckwheat, and rags. American manufacturers in need of these raw materials from Russia have been obliged to pay considerably higher prices for them than they would have paid had they bought them direct in Russia. Even in eastern Siberia the export trade with the United States seemed to have been arranged largely through intermediaries.

These conditions were largely due to the absence of direct banking facilities between Russia and the United States. Not a single Russian bank has a branch in the United States nor has a single American bank a branch in Russia. It has never been the practice of

Russian banks to keep important balances with their American correspondents nor American banks with Russian banks. Such mutual balances as were maintained were only to meet drafts on letters of credit. Any large transactions involving the payment of considerable sums of money for goods purchased were carried on through banks of other nationalities. Thus there was practically no direct money exchange between Russia and the United States.

Moreover, not a single American security was quoted on any Russian stock exchange, nor were any Russian securities, even those of the Russian Government, listed or traded in on any of the American stock exchanges, notwithstanding that there might have been a special market for such securities among the large Russian population in the United States. Even the American dollar had to be quoted in Russia by computation as to its value in marks, francs, or pounds sterling.

American Ignorance of Russian Credit Conditions.

Another serious difficulty has been that American manufacturers have had no facilities for accurate study or knowledge of credit conditions in Russia, and the Russian business world has been largely a closed book to them. The chief American commercial agencies had no branches in Russia, and inquiries about Russian firms have had to be made through a European commercial agency that maintained branches in Petrograd, Moscow, Warsaw, and Odessa, and had agents in almost every city in the Russian Empire with 10,000 or more inhabitants.

Generally speaking, American firms have been able to obtain information as to credits only at great expense and after considerable delay. In consequence American manufacturers have felt obliged to insist, when dealing direct with Russian buyers, on cash with orders, as they have not liked to give credit to concerns about which they knew little or nothing. The Russian merchant, on the other hand, can not appreciate the motives of those who refuse him credit, and, as a rule, will not agree to pay cash unless it is impossible to get the necessary goods in any other way.

Russia's credit system is based principally on bills of exchange. Practically 90 per cent of goods bought by merchants are paid for in bills of exchange running from three to nine months, and this commercial paper is discounted by banks at 5 to 8 per cent per annum. It is a noteworthy fact that less than 1 per cent of bills so discounted go to protest, and one informant says that from personal experience on a turnover of about \$4,000,000 in four years his losses amounted to only \$27,500, in spite of the fact that he had 1,200 accounts on his books and sold his goods throughout European and Asiatic Russia.

Advantages of Russian-American Bank—Other Ways to Promote Trade.

The most important factor in promoting Russian-American trade would be the establishment of one or more Russian-American banking institutions which could facilitate money transactions and in many other ways encourage trade between the two countries. Such a bank could maintain a commercial department and promote direct purchases by American manufacturers of Russian raw materials. It could, for instance, inspect the goods, pay the Russian shippers against documents, and draw on the purchaser in the United States. It could also give information concerning credits in Russia to Amer-

ican manufacturers and exporters and look after their collections in Russia. Moreover, it could perform the important function of assisting American manufacturers to maintain stocks of goods in Russia by making advances on such stocks and arranging for payment of freight and duty on incoming goods. It would be of immense assistance to American-Russian trade if the larger American banks could arrange to establish, either individually or collectively, branches or agencies in Russia, and the great Russian banks could likewise do the same in the United States.

It would also seem advantageous to American trade interests if different groups or associations of American manufacturers and exporters would send special representatives to Russia to study the particular requirements of various lines of trade and make periodical reports dealing with credit conditions, etc. There should certainly be some arrangement for commercial agencies in Russia to give unbiased reports concerning credits to American manufacturers. Another important help for trade would be the promotion in the United States of the study of the Russian language to facilitate commercial transactions. Russian should be added to the curriculums of our leading universities.

SCARCITY OF SHIP MATERIAL IN JAPAN.

[Translated from Osaka Mainichi Shimbun for Sept. 21 by Vice Consul E. H. Dooman, Kobe.]

In the past, shipbuilding material has been supplied by Great Britain, Belgium, and Germany. As the last two countries are unable to export, we looked to England to supply the whole demand, but British manufacturers, after taking orders from within their own country, are unable to respond to other orders. Accordingly, we have had no other alternative but to import from the United States. The steel material supplied by the United States is quite different to that of Great Britain and Japan. While steel plates can be obtained there, the difficulty is that sections and other necessary material can not be gotten. Sections, evidently, can be supplied only by Great Britain.

Of the 31 vessels which were started this fiscal year and are to be completed by the end of the next fiscal year, 60 per cent of the orders for the necessary material has been delivered; of the remaining 40 per cent, a part is to be ordered in the United States, while the remainder must be taken up by the steel companies in this country. While these steel works are still taking orders, the price is very high.

MUNICIPAL FISH MARKET AT SYDNEY.

[Consul General J. L. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Sept. 23.]

In order that the people of Sydney may derive the full benefit from fish caught by the recently purchased Government trawlers the municipality of Sydney has opened a fish market where the catch is disposed of at moderate prices to the public. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for June 5 and Oct. 9, 1915.] The windows at the market are specially constructed, being airtight and fitted with panes of glass in front, so that the space in which the fish are kept is insulated. From a refrigerator beneath a blast of cold air is constantly passing over the fish, which, it is stated, will keep fresh for several weeks.

EFFECT OF WAR ON TRADE CONDITIONS IN FOOCHOW.

[Consul Albert W. Pontius, Foochow, China; supplementing dispatch in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 13, 1915.]

The Foochow trade in practically all articles manufactured by the European countries has been affected by the war. German manufactured goods having a good trade heretofore consisted of indigos, aniline dyes, broadcloth, window glass, and needles; Austria supplied needles and enameled ware, and Belgium, window glass. No goods from these three countries have been imported into Foochow since the beginning of the war. The local stocks of British manufactured goods, also, are now affected, the volume of importations having decreased to some extent. Those from Japan gained steadily as a result of the war, and in many instances the European article was being replaced, but the boycott soon changed this condition, and the Japanese manufactures lost heavily.

Since the report of June 15 was sent in, there has been a further advance in prices of from 5 to 10 per cent. Insufficiency of supplies and the low exchange were responsible. The local merchants who purchase their wares in Shanghai and Hongkong are granted 30 and 60 days' credit after delivery of the goods. The terms of credit now in force among the local merchants are 90 to 120 days after delivery of goods.

Goods Purchased in Shanghai or Hongkong.

Practically all of the foreign goods imported locally are purchased in Shanghai or Hongkong. Before the war direct orders with foreign countries were placed through the local foreign firms. American manufacturers are not represented locally. The representative of a prominent American watch-manufacturing firm recently made his first visit to the port, and experienced no difficulty in obtaining big orders. There is an urgent demand for the following articles, the present stocks commanding high prices, which are here given in Mexican dollars. According to the United States Treasury circular of October 1, 1915, the Mexican dollar is equivalent to \$0.384 in United States currency.

Aniline dyes.—The cheaper grades are put up in 9-ounce tins, and present stocks are selling at \$1.50 to \$3.60. Normal prices for the cheaper grades of dyes ranged from 25 cents to \$1 per tin. The better grade of dye is put up in 1-catty tin boxes (1½ pounds) and is sold at from \$6 to \$9 per box. One grade of dye, in the red color only, is put up in 1½-pound tin boxes and sells for \$8.50 per box. Normal prices for the better grades of dyes ranged from \$1 to \$1.50 per tin. The present stocks are almost exhausted.

Artificial indigo.—The price of this commodity has now advanced to \$220 per barrel.

Wire nails.—Half inch to inch in length, packed in kegs of 100 pounds, these are now selling at \$14 per keg. One to two inch length, packed also in kegs of 100 pounds, sell at \$8 per keg.

Woolen broadcloth.—Goods 72 inches by 30 yards are selling at \$3 per yard. Black is much needed.

Black sateen or venetian.—Goods 30 inches by 60 yards are selling at 65 cents per yard.

Farmer sateen or lasting.—Goods 30 inches by 60 yards are selling at 54 cents per yard.

Blankets.—Red color: Wool, 2 by 2½ yards, 7 pounds weight, selling at \$10 per pair.

Window glass.—The stocks of the various smaller sizes of window glass are almost exhausted. The price has now advanced to \$15 per box. The glass is packed 75, 51, 31, and 24 panes to the box, in sizes 12 by 16, 14 by 20, 18 by 26, and 20 by 30 inches, respectively.

CHOSEN TO HAVE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

[Extract from Seoul Press, Sept. 9, by Consul General Ransford S. Miller.]

The opening of the Chosen Industrial Competitive Exhibition, which is to be held in observance of the fifth anniversary of the present administrative system, is near at hand. Products have been gathered from all parts of the peninsula for display in Kyongpok Palace grounds at Seoul. There are also plans and statistics relating to productive industry, education, sanitation, engineering works, communications, etc.

An extensive portion of the palace grounds has been utilized, covering approximately 60 acres. Important palace buildings have been repaired to be used as showrooms, but all the minor buildings have been pulled down and in their place new buildings have been erected as show rooms. The aggregate area of the buildings to be used for the exhibition is approximately 21,000 square yards.

Part of the exhibition ground near Kyonghoi Lu has been allotted for setting up salesrooms, refreshment buffets, and entertainment halls. This section has been placed under the management of the Seoul Citizens' Association for Supporting the Exhibition. It will be open day and night, giving free admittance to visitors.

The showrooms comprise five main halls, three special, one machinery building, and some minor buildings. Hall No. 1 contains exhibits relating to agriculture, colonization, forestry, mining, fishing, and technical industry. Hall No. 2 contains rooms for exhibits concerning works undertaken with the extraordinary imperial donation funds, education, engineering work and communications, economy, sanitation, and charity works, and police and prison affairs. Shinsei Kwau or Provincial Hall contains exhibits showing the progress and results of various works undertaken by different provinces during the past five years. Paintings, works of sculpture and embroidery, lacquer work, and other articles of art produced by contemporary artists and artisans, as well as objects of fine art produced in preceding ages, are shown in the art hall. Articles for reference produced in the motherland and foreign countries are shown in the reference hall.

The three special buildings have been provided by the Railway Bureau, the Forestry Undertakings Station, and the Oriental Development Co. The machinery building contains various kinds of motors and specimens of machinery for mining, weaving, making nets, printing, etc. In addition, there are cattle, poultry, and pig sheds, and galleries of some of the palace buildings have been used for showing agricultural implements, exhibits by the Red Cross Society, and photographic works.

THE CINNAMON TRADE OF CEYLON.

An article on the history, botany, cultivation and commerce of cinnamon appears in the Indian (official) Trade Journal. It states that the plant [*Cinnamomum zeylanicum*] is indigenous to the moist parts of Ceylon, up to altitudes of 3,000 feet. Varieties of the plant also occur in India, Burma, Java, and the Malay Peninsula. It is an evergreen tree of bushy, spreading habit, attaining a height of 20 to 40 feet. The Singhalese name of the plant is kurundu, and several varieties are recognized, many of which are actually distinct species.

The plant will grow in any ordinary good soil where the rainfall and temperature are adequate. The best-flavored bark is produced on poor white sandy soil, where the temperature averages about 85°, and there is an average rainfall of about 1 inch for every degree per annum. Cutting commences during the heavy rains in May and June, and again in November and December. At this period the sap is in active circulation, and the sticks peel freely.

Export Figures.

Up to 1840 the annual output of bark from Ceylon was about 500,000 pounds. In 1842 competition from Java commenced, and the exports from Ceylon were reduced to about 120,000 pounds, but in 1844 the abolition of export duties brought up the amount to over 1,000,000 pounds. In the last 10 years the exports of quill bark have ranged between about 2,500,000 and 3,500,000 pounds.

In the calendar year 1912 Ceylon's exports of chips amounted to 2,349,944 pounds, and of quills 3,594,930 pounds; in 1913, the corresponding figures were 1,950,438 pounds and 3,278,093 pounds; and in 1914 (up to December 21), the shipments of chips totaled 1,410,784 pounds, and of quills 2,207,941 pounds. Germany is the principal buyer, taking in 1912, 606,142 pounds of chips and 995,213 pounds of quills; in 1913, 428,100 pounds of chips and 1,138,934 pounds of quills. Data for 1914 are not at hand.

According to the same authority (Ceylon Chamber of Commerce), the United States took in 1912—chips, 86,688 pounds; quills, 697,250 pounds; in 1913—chips, 42,560 pounds; quills 359,795 pounds. American (official) figures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, show that the United States imported for consumption 303,967 pounds of unground cinnamon and chips, and 225 pounds of the ground; in the fiscal year 1915, 534,692 pounds of unground cinnamon and chips, and 361 pounds of the ground; the origin of these imports, however, is not indicated.

Four Grades of Quills.

Twenty or thirty years ago the periodic sales of cinnamon bark would include 5,000 to 8,000 bales of Ceylon bark, which would bring 18 to 73 cents per pound. Within recent years, however, the quality of cinnamon bark has fallen off, there being much more woody bark than formerly, and this is not easily disposed of. Quill bark is usually graded into four qualities, of which the best "plantation firsts" consists of the finest and thinnest quills, which are usually packed on the outside of the bundles, while "fourths" consists of coarse, thick, and broken quills. When cinnamon bark is sold "to arrive" the buyer purchases on "usual assortment" terms, in bales of 100 pounds each, which indicates that he will receive 20 pounds of plantation

firsts, 50 pounds of seconds, 20 pounds of thirds, and 4 pounds of fourths. A fair amount of the bark imported by Germany, Holland, and Great Britain is used for distilling purposes, the English distilled oils being especially esteemed.

MUNICIPAL LOANS ON MERCANTILE COLLATERAL.

[Consul W. F. Kelley, Rome, Italy, Sept. 21.]

In view of the extraordinary commercial and industrial conditions at present obtaining in Italy, several of the larger cities are studying ways and means of aiding the industries situated within their limits in order to avoid fluctuations between intense activity and comparative idleness of the manufacturing plants. Suggestions have been made to form municipal guaranty companies to make loans on stored products, whether raw material, partly manufactured, or finished goods.

A system of granting loans on stored goods has long been in practice in Italy, and is regulated by the provisions of the Italian commercial code. In ordinary times a merchant can easily obtain loans from banks and capitalists up to about 75 per cent of the value of the merchandise offered as collateral, and the mortgages on such goods have heretofore frequently been used as commercial paper, being transferable by indorsement.

Under present conditions, however, the money markets are close and conservative, and merchants or manufacturers find it difficult to obtain loans at a reasonable rate of interest. It is therefore under such conditions that certain municipalities are deliberating on the advisability of coming to the aid of local industry by making loans under the laws and regulations heretofore obtaining, and there is little doubt that some such form of support will shortly be organized in the larger commercial and industrial centers of Italy.

REVIVAL OF JAPANESE SULPHUR INDUSTRY.

[Extract from Japan Advertiser of Sept. 23 by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

The export of sulphur from Japan has for years been on the decline, and quotations have fallen, some of the sulphur mines of small standing having even been compelled to stop working. But since the war broke out the demand in the foreign market has improved, and quotations have gradually risen. The export this year up to the end of August was 27,948,607 pounds, valued at \$203,048, showing an increase of 4,638,451 pounds or \$20,003, compared with the figures for the corresponding period of last year. The destinations have in the past been the United States and Australia in the main, with Canada and India coming next, only quite an insignificant amount being shipped to Europe. Since the war, however, the European supply to oriental countries has been stopped, and the demand in Europe itself has increased. Therefore, Japanese sulphur has now to meet an increased demand in the Orient and America and also in Europe. The prospects of this trade are, therefore, very promising, and it is expected that the volume of trade will soon become as big as it was several years ago when the sulphur trade was on the high tide of prosperity.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Nails, chains, soap, blankets, etc., No. 19063.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a firm in his district desires to correspond with American manufacturers of copper sheeting, copper composition tacks, various kinds of nails, barbed wire, corrugated galvanized sheets, chains, wire gauze for blinds, spades, knives, hatchets, matches, canned goods, soap, galvanized buckets, tools, padlocks, trunks, kerosene lamps, looking glasses, oils and colors, boat and stationary motors, sporting guns, ammunition, choppers, hoes, rakes, manila and hemp rope, twines and cotton, lines, sail cloth, leather belts, wire rope, sailors' trousers, blankets, and towels. The firm wishes to buy on its own account.

Surgical instruments, No. 19064.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Spain that a man in that country desires to communicate with American manufacturers of surgical instruments and laboratory apparatuses. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Lace, No. 19065.—An American consular officer in Italy writes that a man in his district desires to act as purchasing agent for American importers of lace. Correspondence should be in Italian.

Five and ten cent store goods, No. 19066.—An American consular officer in Australia reports that a man in that country desires to correspond directly with wholesale firms handling lines of 5 and 10 cent store goods. The man desires to pay cash against documents.

Flooring, fancy wrapping and box paper, No. 19067.—A business man in France has informed an American consular officer of that country that he desires to enter into relations with American manufacturers of rubber imitation flooring and fancy wrapping and box paper. A prospectus, with illustrations of the flooring desired, as well as price lists of the wrapping and box paper, may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. Samples have been forwarded and as soon as received they may likewise be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. Correspondence may be in English. (Refer to file No. 67643.)

Oregon pine, No. 19068.—An American consular officer in French Indo-China reports that a business man in that country desires to represent dealers in Oregon pine. Prices and full information should be supplied. Correspondence should be in French.

Chemical and laboratory glassware, meat mincers, etc., No. 19069.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Canada that a firm desires to obtain prices on chemical and laboratory glassware, meat mincers of special design, cotton and linen webbing, special brass eyelets, and enameled steel wire.

Explosives and portable store houses for ammunition, No. 19070.—An American consular officer in South America reports a possible market for the sale of explosives and portable ammunition store houses. Full information may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

Ice-making machinery, No. 19071.—An American consular officer in India writes that a firm in his district expects to install a 10-ton ammonia process ice-making plant to make 112-pound blocks, using liquid fuel-oil engine power, and desires to receive literature and prices from American manufacturers, including quotations on soluble essences for aerated waters, citric acid, tartaric acid, ether, sulphuric acid, and ammonia. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.

Jute and linen bags, No. 19072.—A broker and commission merchant in Russia writes the Bureau that he would like to secure an agency for the sale of new jute or linen bags for flour and grain. He states several million bags could be sold in his district. Correspondence should be in French or Russian. References are given.

Building materials, stoves, steel ceilings, etc., No. 19073.—An American consular officer in Africa reports that a man in his district desires to secure agencies from American manufacturers of building materials, stoves, steel ceilings, bath and lavatory installations, etc. Correspondence may be in English.

- Steel gates for regulating dam*, No. 19074.—The Department of Public Works, Ottawa, Canada, will receive tenders until November 10, 1915, for steel gates for regulating a dam in the French River, Ontario. Plans and form of contract may be seen, and specifications and forms of tender may be obtained on application to the offices of the District Engineers, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, and Shaughnessy Building, Montreal, Canada, and at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.
- Soap*, No. 19075.—A business firm in the West Indies desires to communicate with manufacturers of unscented white soap in bars. The firm desires to import such soap, remelt it, and then have it colored and perfumed.
- Umbrellas*, No. 19076.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of umbrellas. A sample frame of the umbrella desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 66560.) The frames should be light.
- Wearing apparel and rubber goods*, No. 19077.—A business man in Holland writes the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that he desires to establish connections with manufacturers of knitted underwear, hosiery, shirts, collars, elastic cord, and rubber pharmaceutical goods. He states that he sells on a straight commission basis to the retail trade. References are given.
- Dairy machinery*, No. 19078.—A request has been received by the Bureau from a man in an insular possession who desires to be put in communication with American manufacturers of dairy machinery. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Distillers and maltsters*, No. 19079.—A firm in Canada requests to be furnished with a list of the distillers and maltsters in the United States.
- Glass and porcelain ware*, No. 19080.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and price lists from American manufacturers of glass and porcelain ware. Correspondence should be in Portuguese.
- Furs and horsehair*, No. 19081.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Russia writes that a firm in that country desires to obtain the agency of American firms dealing in furs and horsehair.
- Dry goods, hosiery, and underwear*, No. 19082.—The commercial agent in charge of the branch office of the Bureau in New York City reports that a man who expects to leave soon for Cuba as a representative of several American firms is anxious to represent other lines, especially dry goods, hosiery, and underwear. References are given.
- General agency*, No. 19083.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that its agent in Argentina is in the market for any merchandise, excepting machinery or made-up garments for men and women, and desires to receive prices and discounts. He expects to buy for his own account, and can furnish references, or his bills can be discounted in New York.
- Wood fiber*, No. 19084.—A business firm in the United Kingdom desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of wood fiber (wood wool) and also ropes made from this fiber.
- Textiles*, No. 19085.—A request has been received by the Bureau from a European firm which desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers of textiles for women; also fancy articles such as bags, etc.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 222 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA EXTENDING SERVICE.

[Extract from Japan Daily Mail, Sept. 17, forwarded by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama.]

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha is reported to have been admitted to the New York Shipping Conference. The company has run a round-the-world service since the present war broke out, by dispatching extra European liners to either New York or Galveston on their homeward voyages through the Panama Canal. On admittance into the New York Shipping Conference, the service will be made a permanent fortnightly one, though it is open to doubt whether it can be maintained without suffering any degree of inconvenience on the restoration of peace, when, the restraint on the shipping of the belligerent powers being removed, trade will have to be hotly contested.

Tramp-ship owners' eagerness to acquire new vessels shows no sign of cooling down, but, on the contrary, seems to be steadily enhanced. for, it is reported, more ships, besides all that have been reported previously, have been ordered by them from different yards here. The Osaka Iron Works has lately received orders for four vessels of 3,200 tons each from some of the biggest tramp owners. Even the Uraga yard has received orders for five boats recently. Work now in hand at the various plants is reported to amount to more than 50 large boats.

Cotton Importers and Shipping Companies Disagree.

This booming may be said to be largely responsible for the reported break in cotton rate negotiations between cotton importers and shipping companies. According to a report from Osaka, the negotiations which have been maintained for some time past have suddenly been brought to a standstill on account of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's refusal to come down to the level proposed by cotton importers, declaring that at any point below \$0.0094 per pound no consignment of cotton can be accepted, though if importers accept its terms 50,000 bales may be carried from Galveston. On the receipt of this reply from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha cotton importers resolved to cut off relations with the company, as far as the cotton-shipment question is concerned.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, Sept. 7.]

Aims to Monopolize San Francisco Service.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha has recently purchased a steamer of 4,000 tons. It has now chartered the *Jimmu Maru*, 7,300 tons, and the *Kenyon Maru VIII*, 7,650 tons. It is, according to The Asahi (Osaka), also conducting negotiations with the Kishimoto and the Tatsuma Kisen Kaisha with a view to chartering the *Tairen Maru*, 6,000 tons, of the former and the *Keishin Maru*, 6,500 tons, belonging to the latter. The *Asama Maru*, 6,750 tons, of the Toa Koshi, is also expected to be chartered by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha. It is obvious, states The Asahi, that these steamers will be placed on the American run, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha apparently aiming at the monopolization of the San Francisco service.

The 1,619,649 tons of glass sand produced in the United States last year had a value of \$1,568,030.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 259 Washington, D. C., Thursday, November 4 1915

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RESULTS OF FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

A business man in New York writes that he has received an order for 9 motorcycles and has established an agency in the Netherlands as a result of foreign trade opportunity No. 17615, which was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** on July 26, 1915. He also states that as a result of another foreign trade opportunity he sold 5,000 barrels of potatoes and formed a valuable connection in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

JAPANESE LINES GAIN IN BRITISH COLUMBIA TRAFFIC.

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, B. C., Oct. 22.]

On account of the war, many steamships have been withdrawn from the service of this port. As a result, deep-sea tonnage became scarce and much more freight was offered to the Japanese and the few American lines, which still maintain their regular schedules, than they could carry. Ocean rates have advanced to such an extent that shippers often find it unprofitable to sell their products, even at a good price.

The American lines are now withdrawing their vessels, which forces the bulk of the Oriental tonnage to use Japanese lines. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha and Osaka Shosen Kaisha are the only steamship lines now maintaining regular service to the Orient from British Columbia. These Japanese lines are greatly benefiting from the present situation.

Vessels in Panama Canal Service.

In the Panama Canal service more than half of the tonnage is carried by companies maintaining regular service via the canal. There are six such regular lines at present. Four touch at British Columbia ports. They are:

Alfred Holt & Co., operators of the Blue Funnel Line—a monthly service between Great Britain and Kingston, Jamaica; San Francisco, Victoria, Vancouver, and Seattle.

The Maple Leaf Line—a service from New York to Victoria and Vancouver, then to San Francisco, from that port to Swansea and

Avonmouth, and returning to New York, with a vessel sailing from each port about every six weeks.

The East Asiatic Co.—a vessel every fourth week from Copenhagen, by way of Gothenburg, Christiania, and Genoa to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Puget Sound, and British Columbia ports, a vessel returning every fourth week on the same route.

The Johnson Line—a vessel from Scandinavian ports to North Pacific ports at intervals of 60 days.

REDUCED PURCHASES FROM NOTTINGHAM.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, Oct. 16.]

American orders for Nottingham goods have been reduced for cotton laces, yarn, and curtains, but heavy for nets, upholstery fabrics and Levers lace machines, as will appear from the following chief items of declared export for the quarters ended September 30, 1914 and 1915:

Articles.	1914	1915	Articles.	1914	1915
Cotton laces	\$981, 431	\$735, 576	Cotton yarn	\$150, 662	\$108, 430
Cotton nets	589, 581	605, 266	Upholstery fabrics		11, 638
Silk nets	28, 640	173, 194	All other	401, 224	291, 562
Curtains	59, 007	34, 012	Total	2, 398, 175	2, 112, 422
Levers machines	7, 122	44, 689			
Pickled sheepskins	180, 608	108, 051			

Shipments from Nottingham to the Philippines aggregated \$12,569 for the September 30, 1915, quarter, compared with only \$3,959 in the like period last year. One of the new items was a steam traction engine valued at \$2,170.

Exports to the United States as declared through the Leicester consular agency for the past quarter dropped to \$53,606 from \$141,463 in the similar three months in 1914. This decrease is mainly due to the embargo on wool and leather and their manufactured products, and also to local manufacturers working on Government contracts.

There was an unusual increase in the amount of American goods returned from Leicester (\$110,382 for the quarter, against \$18,406 last year). This was caused by the failure to find a market for a large consignment of inferior leather, and the return of a large quantity of steel stampings which were to have been finished by the Leicester branch of an American firm of razor manufacturers, but, owing to a shortage in labor, they were returned in unpacked condition.

North Yakima, Wash., which in 1910 had a population of 14,082, has shown an activity in furnishing jobs for applicants much greater than that of many larger communities, according to the September report of the Bureau of Immigration of the United States Department of Labor. During that month the sub-branch office at North Yakima received 320 applications for help from employers calling for 1,157 persons. It received 1,893 applications for employment, referred 1,156 persons to employment, and reported 1,155 actually employed. The number actually employed in New York City through the bureau during that month was 260 and in Chicago 2,411.

AMERICANS BUY NORTH CAROLINA ALUMINUM PLANT.

The transfer of a large American aluminum plant from foreign to American ownership is announced in press reports from Charlotte, N. C. French interests were active throughout the greater part of 1914 in pushing extensive operations at the Narrows of Yadkin River, near Whitney and Badin, Stanley County, N. C., but as a result of the European war the development of the property stopped and was expected to be at a standstill for an indefinite period. In buying the plant the Aluminum Co. of America, with headquarters at Pittsburgh, Pa., announces that the development work will be resumed, and that the plans of the original designers will be carried out with only slight modifications.

In its last report on the aluminum industry the United States Geological Survey stated that the work that the Southern Aluminum Co. had in progress at Badin and Whitney consisted of a hydro-electric installation of great size for the generation of electric power, an electrolytic plant of large capacity for the production of metallic aluminum, works for the purification of alumina, an electrode factory, and the homes and other buildings necessary for the well-being of the large number of employees engaged in an important undertaking of this kind.

It was early in 1913 that a contract was let for a concrete dam and power house, for tunnels, and for the grading of the electrolytic plant sites. The plans provide for a dam 220 feet high, 1,300 feet long, 160 feet thick at the base, and 20 feet at the crest. Swinging as the arc of a circle of 1,600 feet radius, its construction involves the use of from 550,000 to 600,000 cubic yards of concrete. This great dam will store water to generate from 20,000 to 70,000 kilowatts, according to water stage, and will form a pond of 5,000 acres. With the reservoir full, the river will be held in check for 5 miles along its course, and the old granite Whitney dam will be entirely submerged.

Before the work on this plant was stopped by the war, there were 2,500 men employed on the construction. After production commences, it has been estimated the number required will be between 1,200 and 1,500.

The Aluminum Co. of America has plants at Maryville, Tenn., and Massena, N. Y., and has also acquired interests at Edgewater, N. J.

The growing importance of this metal is shown by the figures relating to exports for the last fiscal year. During the 12 months ended June 30, 1915, the exports of aluminum and its manufactures were valued at \$3,245,799, compared with \$1,101,920 in the preceding year, and with \$1,046,915 in the year ending with June, 1913.

AMERICANS TO OPERATE CANADIAN LEAD MINE.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 9.]

It is announced by an Ottawa journal that certain lead mines near Kingston have been sold to New York interests, and it is understood that the mines will shortly be started up. They are said to be in shape for turning out lead in 30 days. Work was suspended at the mines about two years ago.

RUBBER TRADE OF EAST INDIES AND THE STRAITS.

[Consul B. S. Rairden, Batavia, Java, Sept. 6.]

The United States bought 36 times as much plantation rubber from Java in the first half of 1915 as in the corresponding 6 months of 1914, and became this island's best customer. The Netherlands took only a little more than half as much and fell to third place; while Great Britain occupied second place in both semesters, as the following table shows:

Exported to—	January-June, 1914.				January-June, 1915.			
	Ficus.	Hevea.	Ceara.	Total.*	Ficus.	Hevea.	Ceara.	Total.*
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
United States		88,389		88,389		3,160,676	8,692	3,169,368
Netherlands	30,052	1,849,054	114,325	2,026,306	22,359	979,903	11,048	1,015,597
Great Britain	38,233	1,730,848	26,774	1,815,345	12,705	2,160,879	9,788	2,245,562
Germany		60,830		63,565				
Belgium	462	406,520		406,982				
Other parts of Europe		6,811		6,811				
Straits Settlements	328	114,138	260	114,726	9,299	294,897		304,196
Australia						86,625		86,625
Other countries					433	194,762		195,195
Total	69,045	4,256,590	141,359	4,522,124	44,796	6,853,741	29,528	7,016,543

* Includes Castilloa rubber not shown to the extent of 55,130 pounds (32,875 pounds to the Netherlands, 19,520 to Great Britain, and 2,735 to Germany) in the first half of 1914 and 58,478 pounds (2,288 pounds to the Netherlands and 56,190 to Great Britain) in January-June, 1915.

Shipments from Sumatra East Coast.

Exports of plantation rubber from Belawan, Deli (Sumatra East Coast) in the first half of the current year amounted to 5,584,777 pounds, a figure 75 per cent in excess of the total for the corresponding months of 1914. Of this gain 1,117,659 pounds can be credited to the United States, as that country made no purchases from the East Coast during January-June, 1914; Great Britain took 2,738,600 pounds more, and the Netherlands 13,308 pounds more. Offsetting these increases were declines totaling 1,472,093 pounds, so that the net gain for the half-year was 2,397,474 pounds. The distribution of these cargoes was:

Exported to—	1914	1915	Exported to—	1914	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
United States		1,117,659	Germany	9,733	
Netherlands	667,335	680,643	Straits Settlements	1,799,796	348,304
Great Britain	690,571	3,438,171	Total	3,187,303	5,584,777
Belgium	10,868				

[Compiled in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

Exports from Ceylon, Dutch East Indies, and Straits Settlements.

The figures presented below have been taken from the official returns of the respective countries and represent the total exports during the calendar years named. The quantities are stated in hundredweights of 112 pounds for Ceylon, kilos of 2.2046 pounds for the Dutch East Indies, and piculs of 133.33 pounds for the Straits Settlements; the values in rupees, equivalent to 32.443 cents U. S. gold;

in guilders, equivalent to 40.2 cents; and in Straits Settlements dollars, equivalent to 56.78 cents.

	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.
CEYLON.			DUTCH EAST INDIES—CON.		
Rubber exported in—	<i>Ctrts.</i>	<i>Rupers.</i>	Hevea, dried, in sheets, exported from—	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Guilders.</i>
1911	61,212	28,356,056	Java and Madura	84,481	5,069
1912	132,569	52,178,051	Castilloa, exported from—		
1913	226,491	61,269,262	Java and Madura	43,766	100,662
1914	306,724	57,220,155	Other, exported from—		
DUTCH EAST INDIES.^a			Java and Madura	45,894	100,697
Ficus, plantation product, exported from—	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Guilders.</i>	Sumatra—		
Java and Madura	124,345	435,208	East coast	9,943	21,575
Sumatra—			Borneo—		
East coast	440,170	1,540,595	West	26,964	59,321
Western	66,102	231,357	South and East	170,951	376,092
South and East	99,143	347,001	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.		
Ficus, not plantation product, exported from—			Borneo rubber, exported in—	<i>Piculs.</i>	<i>S. S. dollars.</i>
Sumatra—			1913	8,195	752,966
East coast	13,539	40,617	1914	3,055	220,911
West coast	514	1,542	Gutta-percha, exported in—		
Borneo—			1913	70,303	4,755,134
West	3,129	9,387	1914	43,317	2,008,082
South and East	3,774	11,322	Gutta, inferior, exported in—		
Hevea, exported from—			1913	155,858	1,451,062
Java and Madura	2,345,047	8,207,665	1914	124,306	1,063,300
Sumatra—			India rubber, including		
East coast	3,036,430	10,627,505	Rambong, exported in—		
Borneo—			1913	4,973	554,762
South and East	5,459	19,107	1914	3,892	261,795
Ceara, exported from—			Para rubber, exported in—		
Java and Madura	10,671	32,013	1913	199,474	28,466,830
			1914	332,043	41,205,828

^a Year 1913.

RUBBER SHIPMENTS FROM AMAZON VALLEY.

[Consul George H. Pickrell, Para, Brazil, Oct. 8.]

Exports of Amazon Valley crude rubber to the United States during September were 78 per cent greater than in the corresponding month of last year; exports to Europe were about 8 per cent less. Each of the four grades of rubber sent to the United States showed gains over September, 1914, but only in "fine" was there any increase in the cargoes to Europe. By ports the month's shipments were:

Exported from—	Fine.	Medium.	Coarse.	Caucho.	Total.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Para to—					
United States	1,018,668	301,015	769,856	205,592	2,295,131
Europe	538,300	6,958	40,300	20,080	605,638
Mannas to—					
United States	1,411,377	128,783	236,503	351,822	2,128,485
Europe	456,703	55,828	24,138	20,701	557,370
Itacoatiara to—					
United States					
Europe	18,938	1,080	8,047	5,169	33,224
Iquitos, Peru, to—					
United States	87,949	3,695	31,861	117,002	240,507
Europe					
Total, September, 1915, to—					
United States	2,517,994	433,493	1,038,220	674,416	4,664,123
Europe	1,013,941	63,866	72,455	45,940	1,196,232
Total, September, 1914, to—					
United States	1,243,868	216,038	702,657	453,916	2,616,479
Europe	936,235	95,619	103,666	161,407	1,296,927
Grand total, September, 1915	3,531,935	497,359	1,110,705	720,356	5,860,355
Grand total, September, 1914	2,180,103	311,657	806,323	615,323	3,913,406

MACHINE SAVES LABOR IN PREDICTING TIDES.

Special Publication No. 32 of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, just published, contains an illustrated description of the survey's tide-predicting machine, No. 2, which is now being used for the prediction of the high and low tides published in the annual tide tables of that bureau. The machine replaces the smaller Ferrel machine that had been used previously for this purpose. The newer machine is about 11 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 6 feet high, and weighs approximately 2,500 pounds. A heavy iron base supports a number of large upright brass plates. These in turn support a system of shafts, gearing, dials, and sliding frames to which are attached a series of pulleys. A slender chain on each side of the machine connects all of the pulleys and transmits the resultant motion to a system of dials and pointers on the face of the machine, where the time and height of each successive high and low water is directly indicated.

Before beginning the predictions for any station, the cranks on the sides are set in accordance with certain quantities known as harmonic constants obtained from tides previously observed at the same station. The tide is assumed to be composed of many elementary components, each of which is due to some motion of the moon or of the sun, including the changes in phase, declination and parallax of these bodies. The machine will take account of 37 such components or elementary tides, combining them into the more complex tide that actually occurs in nature.

The machine, having been set with the harmonic constants representing the components to be used, is operated by turning a hand crank which sets in motion the small component cranks, sliding frames, and pulleys. On the face of the machine, time pointers pass rapidly around dials indicating successive intervals of time, a height pointer oscillates back and forth over a circular dial indicating the corresponding height of the tide, and a fountain pen, rising and falling, traces upon a roll of paper a tide curve that graphically represents the actual rise and fall of the tide. At the time of high and low waters the machine is automatically stopped by an electromagnet, and the operator copies the time and height indicated by the dials directly in the form that is to be sent to the printing office.

To set the machine, predict, and tabulate the high and low waters for a year at any station require from 10 to 15 hours. To perform the same calculations without the use of the machine would probably require not less than six months of time for one computer.

Copies of Special Publication No. 32, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, may be obtained at 20 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Correction.

In line 26 of the article on Russian cotton market and acreage, which appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for November 2, 1915, "\$0.36 per bale" should be "\$3.65 per bale."

ACTIVITY IN CANADIAN BEET-SUGAR FACTORIES.

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Ontario, Oct. 28.]

Much interest has been manifested in the Canadian sugar-beet industry during the past year. Sarnia and vicinity is practically the only territory where sugar beets are raised in the Dominion at this time. The factory heretofore operating at Raymond, Alberta, has discontinued active operations, I am informed. The chief difficulty there appears to be the disinclination of the farmers to produce the necessary beets. In this section of Ontario there are and for some time past have been only two beet-sugar factories; viz, the Dominion Sugar Co. at Wallaceburg, with a daily capacity of 900 tons of beets, and its Berlin branch factory, with a daily capacity of 700 tons.

Much raw sugar has heretofore been imported from Germany and refined at the Wallaceburg plant, but this necessarily ceased with the advent of the European war. The cutting off of the product from that source and the additional duty which the Government placed upon sugar has had an exhilarating effect upon this industry. In July, 1914, just at the outbreak of the war, sugar in Sarnia was selling to the dealer at \$4.56 per 100 pounds. Since then it has risen from time to time until it reached \$6.76 in September, 1915, and at present stands at \$6.16.

I have received an unofficial report that the two factories above named during the last year have made a net income of 21 per cent. Heretofore the flat rate paid the farmers for beets was \$4.50 per ton; this year it has been raised to \$5. Notwithstanding this additional 50 cents per ton paid the farmer, I am informed that the rise in sugar has increased the receipts of the two factories above named by something like \$240,000 during the past year.

New Factories About to be Built.

In consequence of the conditions thus stated, a sugar factory is about to be built at Chatham, some 60 miles to the south of here. Its estimated capacity is to be 1,000 tons of beets per day, while negotiations are rapidly assuming shape for another factory at Petrolea, 18 miles to the southeast, with a capacity of 800 tons per day. I am informed that the machinery for this plant will be obtained from a defunct plant across the line in Michigan.

Climatic and soil conditions are excellent for sugar-beet production in this portion of Ontario, and doubtless beet-sugar factories will multiply and expand with the increase of population and consequent sugar consumption of the country. The most serious drawback is to induce the farmer to raise the sufficient quantity of beets. He is perfectly in accord with the idea, as it pays him well and, if anything, proves helpful to his land. But the farmer is handicapped in not being always able to obtain the necessary help. The work of beet culture is more or less distasteful to the average native laborer. Hence he is obliged largely to depend on foreign labor or plant only such area as he and his family can tend incident to other farm duties. Belgians and Russians have proved the most satisfactory help in this connection, and I am satisfied the factory managers anticipate being able to secure a greater sufficiency of this class of labor at the cessation of the present world war.

ARGENTINA-UNITED STATES WIRELESS CONCESSION.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 27.]

The Federal Holdings Co. of New York has been granted a concession for the construction of a high-power wireless station in Argentina, near Buenos Aires, for communication with a station to be erected at New York. The Review, of the River Plate, states that the company obtaining the concession owns the Poulsen patent rights in the Americas, and that it is proposed to employ this system for the new wireless service. It is also stated that the stations are likely to be in operation within 18 months.

The concession is for 30 years from the time the plans are approved. The company will be required to conform to any future regulations which may be established governing activities of this class, as well as to those now existing. The tariffs are to be subject to approval by the executive power. The rate between Argentina and the United States, it is required, shall be lower than two thirds of the telegraphic tariffs in force. State radiograms and those of authorized national representatives are to be accorded preference and to be charged 50 per cent of the ordinary tariff. The company is to transmit, free of charge, the official radiograms of the Government and of its agents in foreign countries, and meteorological information in less than 10 words between the national observatories which maintain communication with the company. When such messages exceed 10 words, the company will charge the regular rates.

The right is reserved to impose the requirement that all of the employees shall be Argentine citizens. The operators must have Argentine diplomas identical with those required of operators on vessels flying the Argentine flag. The company undertakes to give facilities to the technical staff of the Navy, when authorized by the Ministry of Marine, to practice at this station. It is declared that the present authorization does not imply the granting to the company of the monopoly of radiographic communication in the country or any special privilege.

EFFECTIVE CONSULAR WORK IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Spain, Sept. 13.]

Forty-four new permanent American agencies have been established in Madrid as the result of the activities of this consulate during the past 14 months, and much new business has been opened up. Detailed information as to the amount of business transacted is not available in all instances, but data furnished by some of the importers showed purchases of \$950,000 worth of American electrical supplies, \$1,200,000 worth of machinery, 10,000 fountain pens, 6 tons American hops, 3 tons copper wire (order placed for 3,500 tons), 150 typewriters, 55 automobiles, 5 motor trucks, 120 cameras and 20,000 photograph cards, 34,000 tons of coal, 40,000 tons of wheat, and \$81,000 worth of aeroplanes.

One of this consulate's reports that was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** brought over 1,000 letters to the Madrid importer and resulted in business amounting to \$125,000. Many negotiations have fallen through on account of insistence of the American exporter for cash against documents, which is contrary to the long-established trade custom as to credits in this district.

WOODWORKING INDUSTRY AT ANTUNG.

[Consul John K. Davis, Antung, China, Sept. 16.]

Although Antung is the shipping point for practically all of the timber cut in the Yalu and Hun River basins it has never possessed any large woodworking industries and has only four medium-sized sawmills. This is remarkable in view of the fact that among the rafts floated down the Yalu, which are principally made up of pine logs, there are a large number of hardwood logs suitable for cabinet work. These, owing to the lack of demand such as would be caused by the existence of local woodworking plants, are sold at practically the same price as ordinary pine logs; in fact, owing to the greater difficulty of working with the harder woods and the poor temper of the steel in the local carpenters' cutting tools there is actually a preference for pine rather than oak when offered at the same price.

Realizing the opportunity for developing the business of this port, offered by introducing woodworking industries, the Japanese consul has established an industrial school in the Japanese Settlement where expert woodworkers from Tokyo are demonstrating the uses to which the various Yalu hardwoods may be put in cabinet work. The results achieved are very interesting, as they prove conclusively the suitability of the Yalu woods for use in the manufacture of fine furniture and of small boxes, penholders, etc. The beautiful finishes obtained on such woods as bird's-eye maple and walnut are fully equal to the product of a fine furniture manufacturer in the United States.

At present this industrial school is more or less in the experimental stage, but the Japanese consul hopes to enlarge it and is sanguine of ultimately obtaining good results.

SCHEDULE OF CALIFORNIA-HAWAII STEAMERS.

[Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, San Francisco, Oct. 25.]

The Great Northern Pacific Steamship Co. has made public its schedule between California ports and the Hawaiian Islands, which it intends putting into effect on November 26. The sailings so far announced are:

Ports.	Trip No.				
	1	2	3	4	5
WESTBOUND.					
Leave San Francisco.....	4 p. m.	Nov. 26	Dec. 16	Jan. 5	Jan. 25
Arrive San Pedro.....	10 a. m.	Nov. 27	Dec. 17	Jan. 6	Jan. 26
Leave San Pedro.....	4 p. m.	Nov. 27	Dec. 17	Jan. 6	Jan. 26
Arrive Hilo.....	9 a. m.	Dec. 2	Dec. 22	Jan. 11	Jan. 31
Leave Hilo.....	Midnight.	Dec. 2	Dec. 22	Jan. 11	Jan. 31
Arrive Honolulu.....	10 a. m.	Dec. 3	Dec. 23	Jan. 12	Feb. 1
EASTBOUND.					
Leave Honolulu.....	11 p. m.	Dec. 6	Dec. 26	Jan. 15	Feb. 4
Arrive San Francisco.....	11 a. m.	Dec. 11	Dec. 31	Jan. 20	Feb. 9

This service will be carried on by the *Great Northern*. When the steamer reaches the islands on its February 14 trip it will remain in Honolulu one week on account of the Mid-Pacific Exposition and Carnival that will then be in progress in that city.

TRADE MESSENGERS FROM NATIONS GATHERING IN UNITED STATES.

More than 20 nations are represented by visitors to the United States who are now making their headquarters at the branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and who are seeking new trade relations.

Many of these men are members of foreign firms which are preparing to make purchases here. Others are representatives of big commercial houses and offer unusual facilities for our manufacturers to establish agencies abroad. Their earnest efforts to meet us halfway in producing a greater volume of trade with their respective countries are making easier the progress of American commerce in this year of opportunity.

Some of these advance agents of business are not confining their efforts to any one section of this country, for reports from the several branch offices of the Bureau furnish details of tours which take in several of the principal commercial centers.

Because of the foreign visitors flocking here, the Bureau is dealing directly with buyers as well as sellers, and bringing both classes of business men together so effectively that there are results—purchases of American goods and the making of contracts for agencies in other countries.

One example serves to illustrate the character of these important developments. An agent from abroad who has been introduced to firms in the United States by one of the branch offices of the Bureau represents both a wealthy landowner in Central America, who is interested in numerous development projects, and a large commission merchant who operates throughout Central America and down the west coast of South America, with an elaborate selling organization. Heretofore the commission merchant has represented only the large European manufacturers, but they are shut out of the market by the war and he has decided to push American goods.

Other interests represented are located in Australia, Russia, Italy, Argentina, Spain, India, China, Canada, Japan, South Africa, Bulgaria, New Zealand, Brazil, and several other countries. Each week during the present fall has added to the number.

There is wide variety in the classes of goods sought, including machinery, leather, clothing, the numerous lines making up the stock of a department store, textile products of all sorts, tools, and many other American manufactures. Two visitors from Russia have nearly completed the organization of a cooperative sales agency for promoting Russian interests. Their efforts were materially assisted by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. At one of the branch offices a meeting to launch the project was attended by 50 manufacturers.

The visit of the Bulgarian representatives last summer is an important incident in foreign trade development, as that country has rarely ever made an active canvass for American goods.

In all the negotiations that have been conducted and in those now in progress the Bureau has earnestly extended its cooperation. Its introductions, the agents report, have facilitated the transaction of business, because of the great confidence shown by business men here in the foreign representatives so introduced.

IMPORTS OF SMOKERS' ARTICLES INTO LATIN AMERICA.

The following table shows the imports of smoking pipes, cigar and cigarette holders, and other smokers' articles into some of the Latin American countries during the latest year for which official statistics are available, also the value of the imports from the principal countries supplying the trade:

[Argentine peso=96.5 cents; Chilean peso=36.5 cents; Brazilian paper milreis, 1912,=32.44½ cents.]

	Total.	United States.	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	France.	Italy.	United Kingdom.
ARGENTINA.							
Smoking pipes:	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
1912.....	67,311	42	21,282	1,473	12,683	27,156	4,344
1913.....	108,782		29,850	1,854	20,103	49,740	6,541
Cigar and cigarette holders:							
1913.....	112,326		63,165	27,723	8,199	6,517	5,731
CHILE.							
Cigar and cigarette holders and pipes, of wood:							
1913.....	12,899	2,262	6,285		324	1,584	2,384
1914.....	7,624	198	4,784		144	6	2,169
Cigarette holders, of rubber and celluloid:							
1913.....	6,580		5,695		885		
1914.....	3,989		3,503				
Cigar and cigarette holders, of glass, porcelain, etc.:							
1913.....	3,748		3,433				60
1914.....	1,755		1,680				15
Cigar and cigarette holders and pipes, of meerschaum and its imitations:							
1913.....	200		100				
1914.....	910				160		750
Cigar and cigarette holders, of amber and its imitations:							
1913.....	2,982		1,934		794		254
1914.....	2,646		520	100	740		1,286
BRAZIL.							
Pipes, cigar and cigarette holders, and other smokers' articles:	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>	<i>Milreis, paper.</i>
1912.....	1,930,392	826	391,601	219,783	1,026,934	125,515	35,234
PANAMA.							
Cigar and cigarette holders:	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>		<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
1912.....	9,331	500	4,750		310	1,245	2,457

The imports of pipes and cigarette holders of different kinds into Peru during 1913 were valued at about \$1,800, of which Germany supplied the larger portion. The imports into Venezuela during the year ended June 30, 1914, were valued at only 1,427 bolivars (\$275).

Capital invested in manufactures at Atlantic City, N. J., according to the preliminary statement for 1915 from the United States Bureau of the Census, has increased from \$4,242,000 to \$7,650,000 during the five years since the last census, a gain of 80.3 per cent. There is a considerable increase in other items relating to manufactures. In the order of their importance from the percentage standpoint these are: Salaries, 93.6 per cent; primary horsepower, 46.7; value added by manufacture, 38.4; value of products, 31.3; wages, 27.9; wage earners, 26.3; and materials, 24.3 per cent.

USE OF ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES AT TSINGTAU.

[Consul Willys R. Peck, Tsingtau, China, Sept. 13.]

When Tsingtau was occupied by the Japanese and British forces on November 7, 1914, the military authorities took over the electric-light works. No purchases of supplies were permitted except from the Government. This monopoly has been continued, and stocks are replenished by public tender.

There are two dynamos of 170 kilowatts capacity, and one of 410, while a third, of 1,000 kilowatts, is being ordered from Japan to provide for extension of the service to the suburbs. The works employ a staff of about 103 men and the monthly receipts from sale of current are about \$2,500.

The fixed charge per lamp ranges from 41 cents per month for a 10-candlepower lamp to \$1.85 for one of 400 candlepower. The charge per kilowatt ranges from 9 cents for a total consumption per month of less than 50 kilowatts to half that rate when more than 400 are consumed. There are also minimum charges per number of lamps for each subscriber. Current for motors is charged for on a sliding scale, ranging from \$2.68 per month per horsepower to \$2.16. Rent must be paid for meters, as all of them belong to the Government.

Two Electric-Light Plants Maintained.

Two electric-light plants are located at Syfang and the Hungshan coal mines, respectively, the former in the Shantung Railway's car shops, and the latter in the railway's mines. The dynamos in Tsingtau supply alternating current with a frequency of 50 and a voltage of 120.

There are no firms in Tsingtau dealing exclusively in electrical apparatus. The Government purchases supplies through public tender. A quantity of American lamps were purchased recently. Several hundred meters, it is rumored, will be advertised for shortly, but the short period elapsing between the public invitation for tenders and the date when they must be handed in—generally three weeks or a month—allows time only for local bids. The time allowed for delivery generally makes it necessary that goods supplied shall be taken from stocks in the Orient.

Japanese Goods Receive Preference.

The general understanding is that in Government purchases Japanese goods shall receive the preference, other considerations being equal, but the officer in charge of purchases of electrical materials expresses a lively desire that as much competition shall be developed as possible, especially as it is conceded that in certain lines foreign markets must be entered.

The field for the use of electrically driven machinery in Tsingtau in normal times is to be found in cotton presses, wool cleaning and packing machinery, egg-products factories, a hat factory, etc., but at the present time these concerns are not running and their number at all times has been restricted, thus limiting the demand. Except for the railway car shops and the Government shipyard, there are no large metal-working factories.

EXPORTS OF CEDRATS FROM GREECE A NEW MOVEMENT.

[Vice Consul C. M. Corafa, Athens, Sept. 23.]

Present conditions have made the port of Piræus for the first time an important shipping center for cedrats, which formerly reached consumers through various foreign ports.

The cedrat is a citrus fruit used by orthodox Hebrews at the celebration of the Feast of Tents, following Atonement Day, and plays an important part in the ceremonies. Owing to the increasing difficulty with which good specimens are procured, the closing of certain former sources of supply, and the high prices demanded, much attention has been given to the Grecian cedrat.

The tree itself is a variety of the *Citrus medica*, bearing a large fruit, not acid, and having a high and agreeable perfume. The tree is about the same size as the Mandarin orange. The greatest care is necessary for the proper development of the cedrat fruit from the time of blooming to the moment of picking, which takes place about the last of July. After the bud has appeared, all surrounding thorns are removed from the branch, even the nearest leaves are removed, and the young fruit is wrapped loosely in flax lint, lest it be marred by a scratch or blemish. For religious purposes it is of the greatest importance that the fruit be perfectly smooth and without excrescence. The stamens are an important part in the sentimental value of the fruit and must be preserved intact. When mature the cedrat is packed carefully in individual compartments of a specially constructed box, each tiny compartment lined with flax lint, in which condition it is ready for the buyer.

Cedrat groves are located on slopes where the winter winds are cut off by protecting peaks and where the temperature does not go too low, for the slightest frost withers the stamens, rendering the fruit no longer suitable for religious purposes, and its value drops to the common quotation ranging between 3 and 5 cents apiece, while the perfect fruit retails for from \$0.60 to \$2 each.

The use of the cedrat in religious celebrations dates, according to tradition, from a period near the Babylonian captivity, and its use is zealously adhered to by orthodox Hebrews in various parts of the world. Each member of the congregation is supposed to possess on the ceremonial day at least one perfect specimen of the fruit, without fleck or blemish, and retaining the stamen.

Until the outbreak of the present war, Trieste was the greatest cedrat market of this section of the world, but the closing of that port has shifted the market center to Piræus, whence a large export is developing from the increased production which has taken place in the cedrat groves in the districts of Parga and Chimera in northern Epirus, on account of the blockade of the Syrian coast, whence a large amount of the crop was formerly sent to Trieste.

Competent ecclesiastical authorities pronounce the Chimera cedrats, grown in New Greece, to be the best in the world for religious purposes, the excellence of which variety is said to be due to a secret process of cultivation, which is jealously guarded by its fortunate possessors.

Two shipments of cedrats were made from this district recently, totaling 3,793.99 pounds, valued at \$2,480.10, indicating the very high prices brought by this fruit.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Barley, No. 19086.—An American consular officer in northern Africa reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American exporters of barley who are able to make cargo quotations in Italian lire, c. i. f. destination, on telegraphic inquiry, with 48 to 72 hours option. Correspondence may be in English. Samples should be sent with first letter.

Cotton machinery, No. 19087.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Russia that a man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of cotton machinery. Correspondence may be in English.

General agency, No. 19088.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that a man in his district desires to sell on commission for American firms, men's furnishings, hardware, electrical lamps, dentists' supplies, toilet articles, shoes, office supplies, printing paper, food supplies, etc. Catalogues and samples should be sent. Reference is given.

Underwear and hosiery, No. 19089.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a manufacturers' agent in his district desires to act in that capacity for an American manufacturer of women's underclothing, children's outfitting, and other dry goods. Reference is given.

Optical supplies, No. 19090.—An American consular officer in India transmits the name of a firm in that country which desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of lenses, frames, and cases.

Ice boxes, No. 19091.—An American consular officer in a Mediterranean port writes that a firm in his district is in the market for ice boxes or small refrigerators of the simplest type and of rather cheap construction, at a price which will enable the firm to retail them for not over \$15.

Dairy machinery and appliances, No. 19092.—An American consular officer in India transmits the name of a firm which desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of dairy machinery and appliances.

Cotton, yarn, dry goods, umbrellas, etc., No. 19093.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in China that a firm in his district desires to establish connections with American exporters of raw cotton, cotton yarn, cotton piece goods, silk trimmings, ribbons and laces, underwear, umbrellas and umbrella parts, and kerosene oil lamps, lamp globes and shades. Correspondence may be in English or German.

Wagons and carts, No. 19094.—An American consular officer in South America reports a possible market in his district for wagons and carts for drayage purposes. Catalogues showing cuts and prices should be sent, particularly of the low-bed type. Correspondence may be in English but Portuguese is preferred.

Knife-cleaning machine, No. 19095.—A man in the United Kingdom writes the Bureau that he wishes to establish connections with an American firm which will purchase or undertake to promote the sale of a knife-cleaning machine. An illustration of the machine has been forwarded and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 73.)

Coal, No. 19096.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires prices for charter shipments, f. o. b. New York or other water points, on coal. Statements of analyses should be sent.

Zinc plates, pyrolusite, and graphite, No. 19097.—A business man in Norway desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of zinc plates, No. 12, 0.65 mm. thick; No. 7, 0.35 mm. thick, or No. 6, 0.3 mm. thick; corrugated zinc plates for use on washboards, No. 7, plates to be 1 by 2½ meters; pyrolusite containing 90 to 95 per cent oxygen; and pulverized graphite, free from iron and other particles. Quotations are desired c. i. f. destination.

Brass tubes, No. 19098.—An inquiry has been received by the Bureau from Argentina for quotations on 400 brass tubes, 0.035 millimeter internal and 0.080 millimeter external dimensions, 2.60 meters long. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or other water points.

- Electrical goods*, No. 19099.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in China writes that a firm in that country desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of electrical wires, fixtures, batteries, and lamps of the cheaper class.
- Automobiles*, No. 19100.—One of the commercial attachés of the Department of Commerce reports a possible market for 200 automobile trucks in Spain.
- Parquet flooring*, No. 19101.—A business firm in the United States transmits the name of a firm in Argentina which desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers of parquet flooring. Samples should be sent by parcels post, with quotations f. o. b. New York.
- General agency*, No. 19102.—A man in Spain writes the Bureau that he desires to establish commercial relations with American firms with a view to representing them in that country.
- Surgical and medical instruments and apparatuses*, No. 19103.—A firm in Russia requests the names of American firms manufacturing or dealing in physical, surgical, and medical instruments and apparatuses, instruments and utensils for chemical laboratories, instruments for geodesy and drawing, spectacles, glasses, and frames for spectacles. Correspondence should be in Russian.
- General agency*, No. 19104.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in England transmits the name of a man who desires to communicate with American firms interested in establishing importing agencies in Europe. The man does not specify any particular line.
- Windlasses and winches*, No. 19105.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and price lists from American manufacturers and exporters of windlasses and winches.
- Bones*, No. 19106.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in France that a firm in his district is in the market for the purchase of large quantities of bones for the manufacture of buttons, glue, and fertilizer. The firm desires to pay about \$25.09, c. i. f. destination.
- Electric torches*, No. 19107.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district is desirous of importing electric torches, particularly vulcanized torches complete with cup and lens, sizes 1½ inches by 5 inches, 1½ inches by 6½ inches, and 1½ inches by 8½ inches. Descriptive literature should be sent with quotations.
- Glass and bottles*, No. 19108.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France transmits the name of a man who desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of glass bottles and glass of all kinds.
- Drugs, pharmaceutical, surgical, and medical supplies*, No. 19109.—An American consular officer in India writes that a man in his district desires to communicate with American firms dealing in drugs, pharmaceutical, surgical, and medical appliances and supplies.
- Agricultural machinery*, No. 19110.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in France that a man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of agricultural machinery.
- Textiles*, No. 19111.—An American consular officer in South Africa transmits the name of a manufacturers' agent who desires to represent American manufacturers of cotton dress goods, hosiery, household linens and cotton goods, cottondales and cotton duck. Correspondence, as well as catalogues and price lists, may be in English.
- Chemicals*, No. 19112.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American firms who are in a position to deliver benzol, aniline, phenol, salicylic acid, acetic acid, bismuth, borax, zenzo naphthol, iodine, methylalcohol, cocaine, and atrophina. Reference is given. Correspondence may be in English.

TEXTILE-MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN RUSSIA.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Sept. 18.]

An article in the industrial press calls attention to the fact that the shares of Russian textile-manufacturing enterprises are mostly in firm hands. Until recently the influence of banks in these concerns was small, and their paper values (stocks) circulated only in a limited number on Russian stock exchanges. The official bulletin of the Petrograd Stock Exchange contains the names of shares of textile-manufacturing enterprises, the aggregate capital of which amounts to 93,300,000 rubles (\$48,000,000), against 82,900,000 rubles (\$43,000,000) on January 1, 1913. Thus the capital of 23 textile-manufacturing companies quoted on the Petrograd Stock Exchange has augmented by 10,400,000 rubles (\$5,400,000) in more than two and a half years, and during this time no shares of new companies have been added to the stock exchange quotation list. The capital of concerns in other industrial lines has grown rapidly, especially those in which the banks and the stock exchanges are interested.

Of the 23 textile-manufacturing concerns, the stocks of which are quoted on the Petrograd Exchange, 14, with a capital of \$29,700,000, are in the Petrograd district; 4, with a capital of \$11,200,000, are in Poland; 3, with a capital of \$4,900,000, are in the Moscow district; 1, with a capital of \$1,200,000, is in Reval; and 1, with a capital of \$1,000,000, is in Saratof.

In 1914 no business was transacted in the shares of 16 of these enterprises, and there were very small transactions in shares of the other 7, though textile-manufacturing concerns are among the most profitable in Russia.

HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT ABROAD.

American consular officers in various foreign countries have, during the past year, submitted exhaustive reviews of the hydroelectric development and the outlook for augmented sales of electrical materials and supplies in their respective districts. A few of these articles have been published in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, but the series is so extensive that publication of all the reports submitted was impracticable.

For this reason the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce arranged to place the unpublished manuscripts in the industrial centers of the United States, where they could be inspected by manufacturers and exporters, and two sets of these manuscripts have already been distributed in this way. Additional reports have since been received from consular officers, and these, known as Hydro-electrical Series No. 3, will be made available to interested firms in the same manner.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

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No. 260 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 5 1915

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CHINESE GOVERNMENT THANKS AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

The Chinese Minister at Washington has conveyed to the Department of State the thanks of his Government for the courtesies and attentions shown by American officials to the members of the Honorary Commercial Commission of China during its recent visit to the United States.

[The visit of this commission last spring attracted much attention, and many notices concerning it—its membership, itinerary, etc.—appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* at the time. Later the secretary of the commission wrote to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 8, 1915), voicing an enthusiastic opinion regarding the outlook for augmented trade between the two Republics as an outcome of the commission's tour.]

COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS TO STUDY AMERICAN SCHOOLS.

The Minister of Colombia, at Washington, has informed the Department of Commerce that Senores Don Antonia Borda C. and Don Juan A. Montoya B. have been appointed by the Colombian Government as its special agents to study agricultural and commercial institutions in the United States.

FLOOD DAMAGE IN MEXICAN STATE.

[Consul A. J. Lespinasse, Frontera, Tabasco, Oct. 15.]

A violent gale, accompanied by torrential rains, visited the State of Tabasco on October 8, causing the rivers to overflow their banks and inundate the surrounding country. It is feared that the damage to banana plantations will be unusually heavy, as many of the plantations have been under water for three to five days. Unless the flood recedes rapidly and the weather becomes cooler the plants will rot and the fruit become unmarketable. It is now roughly estimated that the decrease in banana production will be 50 per cent up to March, 1916; if no further damage occurs in the meantime, production should gradually return to normal after that date.

The loss of human lives has been small, but suffering among the Indian farmers will be keen, as they have lost all their crops and many of them are homeless. The loss of cattle will be high, many having died from starvation and exposure, while others were carried away by the swollen streams and drowned.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN THE COTTON BELT.

[Prepared in the Atlanta office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Oct. 22.]

Considering the depressed conditions prevailing throughout the cotton belt in the fall of 1914 and spring of 1915, occasioned by the impossibility of moving last year's record cotton crop, the return to prosperity which the South is now enjoying is truly remarkable. Cotton is moving, the farmers are receiving double the price paid them last year, and cotton experts state that the cost of production has been lowered to such an extent that the grower's profit now approximates \$50 per bale. The price of cotton a year ago made it impossible for planters to clear off their indebtedness for fertilizer and other supplies, but the more satisfactory price now prevailing has afforded them considerable relief in this respect. The campaign for diversification of crops resulted in some good, as many fields that heretofore produced only cotton, this year yielded a good supply of truck.

Last year at this time many cotton mills were on short time, but conditions have so far adjusted themselves that most of them are continually busy and some are running overtime. Optimistic of future business, many mills are making extensive purchases of machinery and equipment. A southern representative of one of the large manufacturers of textile machinery recently stated that cotton-machinery builders have done bigger business this year than in any year since 1907. Again, one of the largest jobbers of hardware and mill supplies in the South is responsible for the statement that during the past two weeks he has handled more equipment and mill supplies than in any two months since the first of the year.

Building and Industrial Activity—Bank Clearances.

Building operations are on the increase. Comparing September, 1915, with the corresponding month of 1914, statistics show that improvement in this industry has been general. Among the southern cities Atlanta made the largest gain for the period stated—281 per cent.

The iron and steel foundries are all busy with both domestic and foreign orders.

Hosiery manufacturers throughout the South are doing a tremendous business. Numbers of them state that they are sold far ahead, or, as one important company expresses it, "too far oversold to entertain any further orders until July next or perhaps later." Another company made the statement that it was not interested in further orders, as it had more than it could handle.

The bank clearings for Atlanta for the week ending October 8, 1915, which may be taken as indicative of improved financial conditions throughout the cotton belt, showed an increase of nearly 5 per cent over the clearings for the corresponding week of 1914, which is a gain of nearly \$1,000,000 a day for each day of the week.

A boiler which is described as a "tubeless rapid steam generator," employing oil as fuel, is the subject of a circular, with accompanying blue-print diagram and illustrations, which has been forwarded by Commercial Attaché A. H. Baldwin at London. The descriptive material will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 799.

LARGER MARKETS FOR AMERICAN LINOLEUM AND OILCLOTH.

American manufacturers of lineoleums and oilcloth, whose annual product doubled in a decade—from \$11,403,000 in 1899 to \$23,339,000 in 1909—now have unusual opportunities for the sale of their goods. Imports of this class have fallen off more than one-half, while exports have increased nearly one-half in the first eight months of the current year in comparison with the corresponding period of 1914. These facts are disclosed by statements published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in the August "Summary of Foreign Commerce."

Usually our imports of linoleum and oilcloth are double in value our exports of that class, but the balance of trade in this commodity has now shifted to the export side. For recent periods the comparative imports and exports have stood as follows:

Calendar year.	Imports.	Exports.
1905.	\$1,457,000	\$263,000
1910.	2,016,000	526,000
1914.	1,740,000	615,000
1915 (8 months).....	598,000	626,000

Our present rate of exportation of linoleum and oilcloth is thus about \$1,000,000 per annum, or far below the annual sales of the United Kingdom and Germany.

In normal years the United Kingdom's exports of linoleum and oilcloth have averaged about \$12,000,000 per annum, and of that amount she has been sending from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 worth to the United States. The remainder has gone chiefly to Europe, although shipments are recorded to all grand divisions. Prior to the war Germany was selling us more than \$500,000 worth annually and sending goodly amounts to South America and other sections, her total exports of these articles approximating \$5,000,000 a year.

American exports of oilcloth and linoleum, while relatively small, are finding their way to all parts of the world. The largest outlets have been Canada, England, Cuba, Australia, and the Philippine Islands. Other promising fields are Argentina, India, and various countries of Central and South America and the nonmanufacturing countries of Europe. Detailed information regarding the amount sent to each country is published in table 5, "Exports of domestic merchandise, 1910-1914," sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., and by branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce located at New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, New Orleans, Atlanta, San Francisco, and Seattle for the nominal sum of 35 cents. Table 3, containing sources of our imported oilcloth, is likewise sold for 30 cents.

That South America has resumed her normal demand for agricultural implements from the United States is shown by recent export statistics. Large consignments of iron and steel have also been shipped lately to South America, while the exports of tin plate from the United States to South America during the summer of 1915 show an enormous increase over those of last year for the corresponding period.

POSSIBILITIES FOR AMERICAN-MADE DEWAR FLASKS.

There appears to be no good reason why American manufacturers of vacuum glassware should not extend their line to include Dewar vacuum flasks, which are extensively used for scientific purposes in this country. The Bureau of Standards requires annually a considerable number of these flasks, which have always had to be imported specially; other scientific bureaus of the United States Government are large users thereof, and schools, colleges, and other laboratories throughout the country form a market.

Dewar flasks are similar to thermos bottles and others of like form, which are at present made with entire success in this country. Those most used in scientific work are larger than thermos bottles, and there is more of a demand for spherical flasks, while most thermos bottles are cylindrical; otherwise there is no distinction between the two lines of products.

A comparison of prices of the imported flasks, even free of duty, with the commercial schedule of prices of thermos bottles of the same size warrants the belief that a permanent business in this line could be established in the United States that would not have to yield to foreign competition upon the resumption of normal trade conditions.

The Bureau of Standards stands ready to furnish to any American manufacturer who may be interested more detailed specifications concerning Dewar vacuum flasks, and it is willing to place a trial order with one or more firms if a suitable price arrangement can be made.

PRINCE RUPERT'S BIG DRY DOCK TESTED.

[Vice Consul Irving N. Linnell, Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Oct. 7.]

The official test of the dry dock and ship-repair plant at Prince Rupert has been made, and it has been pronounced ready for work. This plant was built by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and was projected by the late President Charles M. Hays, of that company.

The completed plant consists of a 20,000-ton floating dry dock, the second largest on this continent; carpenter shop; shipbuilding shed and launching platform; machine shop; boiler and blacksmith shop, and foundry. There is also a concrete power house, with boilers of 2,400 horsepower, and two 1,000-kilowatt turbo-generators, together with an air compressor having a capacity of 1,500 cubic feet per minute.

The floating dry dock is made up of three parts, which will fit together in any combination, or may be operated separately and at the same time. By a special link-and-pin device, any pontoon is easily removable for examination or repair.

A steel derrick, capable of lifting 50 tons, is installed for the purpose of handling heavy lifts into and out of ships, and is used as well for handling heavy commercial freight for the railway. Traveling cranes are installed in all the shops as well as in the power house.

Consul John A. Gamon reports that on the basis of the rate of exchange at Puerto Cortes during September the value of the Honduran silver peso was 35.5 cents gold, representing a premium of 181.69.

ANCIENT HAWAIIAN TAPA DESIGNS REVIVED.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu, Oct. 8.]

The art of making fiber cloth, as practiced by the Hawaiians up to the period when the New England missionaries arrived in the Hawaiian Islands—1820—is now almost a lost art, and except for a large, but exceedingly rare collection on display behind glass at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaiian tapas are now regarded as expensive relics.

Tapas still continue to come into the market from Samoa and from Tahiti, and are bought by travelers as Hawaiian tapas. As a matter of fact, tapa fiber cloth is no longer made in Hawaii.

In ancient days Hawaiians made their tapas from wood fiber which, with water added, was reduced to a pulp. To make it into cloth, the water was squeezed from the pulpy mass, which was then placed upon smooth logs and beaten with specially prepared sticks. In this way the mass was gradually worked out into large thin sheets, and when dry was of the consistency of papyrus or smooth, stiff paper.

The Hawaiians carved designs on heavy wood sticks, and with pigment secured from sea mosses, ground ochre, and plants, the designs were stamped into the wet fiber. These designs were somewhat crude, but quite effective. After the arrival of the missionaries some of the designs were copied from gingham and calico cloths brought from New England. Tapas were used not only as clothing but as bedspreads. When piled 6, 7, and 10 deep they formed an extremely comfortable couch.

An American girl, born in Hawaii, who recently finished four years' work at an American college, where she studied under one of the foremost teachers of design, has created a new handicraft in the use of tapa designs which were secured from the Bishop Museum. The work consists of cutting the designs in relief out of wood, and with these "tools" she produces her pictures in harmonious coloring on various fabrics. White chiffon has been found a very good medium. So far, fabrics turned out are head and shoulder scarfs for women. Many attempts have been made to preserve the tapa designs, but never before in women's apparel.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS FOR CHINESE.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, Oct. 2.]

Although the time is limited in which to introduce on the Hongkong market for this year's holiday trade bonbons or Christmas crackers, it will, no doubt, pay American manufacturers to keep in touch with the Hongkong importers. Although the requirements of the European population are not great, there seems to be an increasing interest on the part of the Chinese for this line of goods. At present these table crackers are being supplied by British firms almost entirely, and local dealers report that the prices have been increased considerably. For the Hongkong trade the qualities which are deemed to be the most popular are those retailing for \$0.65, \$1, and \$1.25 gold per dozen. The more expensive kinds would find no sale locally. The British product contains miniature presents, knick-knacks, verses, and the like.

[A list of Hongking importing firms may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington.]

MARKETING THE NEW SOYA BEAN CROP IN MANCHURIA.

[Consul A. A. Williamson, Dairen, Manchuria, China, Oct. 7.]

New soya beans are beginning to appear on the market at various places in the interior of Manchuria and appear to be of average quality on the whole. While some beans, grown on lower ground, are inferior, there are also good-quality beans grown on the uplands.

While no figures on which to base an estimate of acreage or production are yet to be had, the consensus of opinion is that the crop will be an average one or even below average. [For discussion of last year's crop see Supplement to COMMERCE REPORTS No. 52b, June 2, 1915.]

The big rice harvest in Japan, which has so lowered the income of farmers as to affect their purchasing power, has, along with other factors, kept down bean prices. The stocks held over in the interior from last season were exceptionally large, and the heavy rains have damaged these old beans so much that they are practically lost.

Cooperative Selling—Fall Shipments.

At Kaiyuan a produce dealers' association and trust company has been formed, modeled after that at Dairen. Kaiyuan is a promising bean center. It is likely that an exchange will be established at Changchun also.

North Manchuria beans, which are considered superior to those grown in South Manchuria, have been brought to Dairen in considerable quantities both by train and by steamer; but the late spring and excessive rainfall (much of the country was flooded from time to time) have doubtless decreased these crops considerably, it being estimated that the reduction amounts to about 20 per cent. This applies equally to other crops, such as kaoliang, millet, barley, and wheat. The ravages of insect pests were also greater than usual.

Nevertheless the export of beans to Europe, notably Holland, has kept up remarkably, considering conditions there. These shipments have to be covered by documents guaranteeing their ultimate consumption in order to avoid capture at sea by belligerent cruisers.

At present the local trade is depressed, as Japan, the principal market, is suffering from overproduction of rice, as noted above, and European markets are not what they were, despite some shipments that have gone there. A few mills have begun work, but only in a small way. One of the largest was driven to making peanut oil during the summer.

More Crushing Mills.

The experimental mill built by the South Manchuria Railway Co. at Dairen, which uses the chemical extraction process, has been sold to Messrs. Suzuki & Co., of Kobe, the seller stipulating that the purchaser should enlarge the mill to double its capacity. Suzuki & Co. will spend about 200,000 yen (about \$100,000) on the mill; but it is said the railway will aid the new owners financially. The fatty acid factory attached to the mill will also be operated by Suzuki & Co. This firm intends to establish two more mills, using the same benzine extraction process, at Kobe and Moji, in all probability. The fatty acid and glycerine factory is only used when the price of bean oil is too low for profit.

The purchase of this mill by a private company is interesting, as it was understood that it had not proved profitable. Perhaps it is thought that by enlarging the capacity profits would mount up so as to make the venture pay.

Nevertheless it may be said of practically all the mills in Manchuria that they pay very little in comparison with other investments. It is doubtful if much more capital will be invested in this business except, possibly, as a subsidiary enterprise, such as that of Lever Bros. (of England), near Kobe. This firm uses the oil obtained by its extraction mill for soap making, and the enterprise appears to be paying.

ANOTHER CANADIAN TRANSCONTINENTAL LINE.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, B. C., Canada, Oct. 21.]

With the arrival in Vancouver on October 19, 1915, of the first through train over the Canadian Northern Railway, another Canadian transcontinental railway connected the Atlantic with the Pacific, making three all-Canadian lines in operation and increasing the opportunities for the growth and development of British Columbia.

This company now has in operation over 10,000 miles of railroad, or slightly less than the Canadian Pacific Railway, which has a mileage of over 11,000.

Tenders have recently been asked by the Canadian Northern Railway for constructing temporary freight sheds and a passenger station on that portion of False Creek, already filled in by the company, to serve for the accommodation of passenger and freight trains pending the construction of the proposed million dollar terminals on this site.

The company has already reclaimed 64 acres of False Creek tide flats, placed 2,000,000 yards of fill in the creek, and it is estimated that it will require a further fill of 3,250,000 yards to complete the entire reclamation scheme necessary for building the permanent terminals.

SHIPS FOR THE TRANSPACIFIC TRADE.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, China, Oct. 2.]

If the present congestion of cargo throughout the Far East continues, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, it is officially stated, is in a position to add several other ships. The Java-Pacific Co., a new line managed by the Java-China-Japan Line, will run one boat per month from Batavia, via Hongkong and other ports, to San Francisco, adding more ships if warranted. The *Empress of Japan*, the Canadian Pacific liner, will leave Hongkong for Vancouver the first week in November.

The Bank Line Co., again enters the trans-Pacific freight trade in November with one boat, adding others later.

A British India firm has opened in Detroit a bank credit of £10,000 (\$48,665) to be used in the purchase of plows of a special type and probably a brick-making plant, which were brought to its attention by Consul James Oliver Laing, of Karachi.

CONFECTIONERY TRADE OF COSTA RICA.

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San José, Sept. 29.]

As a rule the dealers of San Jose buy their hard, mixed, and crystallized candies through New York commission houses (which receive $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent commission on cash purchases and generally 5 per cent on time trading), but the retailers of chocolate candies customarily import direct from the factory in small amounts.

The stock lines of American hard candies have been known in this market for years, and the goods are simply ordered as wanted. This class of goods comes in 5-pound screw-top cans, and costs about 11 cents United States currency per pound, less 5 per cent for cash. The labels are printed in the English language, but the cans sent to this market bear an additional label printed in Spanish, which is simply pasted over the original label. All candies pay an import duty of $10\frac{1}{2}$ cents (United States) per pound gross weight. Package goods are not imported for the reason that duties are assessed by gross weight, and pail goods are entirely out of the question.

Chocolates Bought Direct—Keeping Qualities.

American chocolates of the very best grades are sold in greatest quantity during the holiday season, though two firms handle them throughout the entire year. These candies are ordered in small lots, as the climate forbids keeping them for any length of time. The American chocolates are sent with labels in English and are consumed mostly by foreigners.

Two important American chocolate manufacturers are now using 1-pound air-tight cans, which retail for the equivalent of \$1.25. Other American manufacturers continue sending their chocolates in cardboard boxes, much to their prejudice, when the goods can not be sold and eaten at once. As noted, this class of goods is almost always bought direct from the factory, and is invariably retailed by the one who imports it. The leading importer of American chocolates buys direct from the makers for cash and receives a 5 per cent discount.

Unquestionably the higher grades of American chocolates are far superior to all others in this market, but the problem of so making them that they will keep for a longer period must be mastered. Certain brands of Italian and English chocolates will keep throughout the year, as they are made up dry and hard, but as a confection they can not compare with the fresh American goods.

Climate Must Be Reckoned With.

The temperature at San Jose seldom rises above 85° F., but merchandise is distributed from this point to the lowlands, where the heat and dampness are such that only certain classes of candy properly packed can stand the test. Then, too, all imported candies reaching San Juan must pass through the hot weather of the sea-level part of the journey.

The best packing for the hard, mixed, and crystallized candies is the 5-pound can with a screw top. The ideal package for chocolates is a very thin, air-tight tin box ($\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 pound sizes) that can be opened by tearing the tin lid off with the fingers only, and this plain

tin box should be placed inside the regular container bearing the manufacturers' name and usual trade-mark.

[The addresses of San Jose importers of confectionery may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 67399.]

STEEL PRODUCED DIRECT FROM ORE.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 7.]

Especial interest attaches to the electric smelter at Belleville, in the Kingston consular district, because of the production there of steel of all grades, including tool steel, direct from the ore. An unusual feature of the process is the use of a preheater that utilizes the heat from the waste gases produced during the smelting of the ore.

The preheater consists of two wrought-iron pipes 8 feet long, increasing regularly in diameter from 14 to 18 inches, to allow the charge to slide easily down the heated portion. These pipes are inclosed in the preheater stack, which has firebrick linings and baffle plates with openings arranged in such a manner that the heated gases circulate about the preheater pipes.

No Waste of Electrodes—Enlargements Planned.

The furnace is charged from the upper floor into the preheater, the charge consisting of iron ore, limestone, and charcoal, crushed to pass through a 1-inch mesh. The furnace is operated on a two-phase current, the transformers being connected by what is known as the Scot connection. The electrodes are 3 inches in diameter, threaded so that they can pass down continuously, and are used up entirely, there being practically no loss from short ends.

The plant was in operation for about two months, and demonstrated that steel can be made in this manner directly from ore containing 7.5 per cent of titanium. A quantity of high-carbon steel was made, the ingots being perfectly sound and free from blowholes. The company intends to erect shortly a 3-ton furnace, with a view to making high-carbon tool steel and steel castings.

REVIVAL OF ANTIMONY MINING IN JAPAN.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle of Sept. 21, by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

Before the war antimony mining in Japan was neglected, owing to the cheapness of imported Chinese sulphide of antimony. The European hostilities, however, sent up the market tremendously—from about 2.621 cents per pound to about 15.725 cents per pound now ruling. This has naturally acted as a great impetus to antimony mining in this country, and the mines at Ichinogawa, Fujinogawa, and Tatsugawa have all been considerably extended, yet their present output aggregates only about 50 tons a month. This quantity is only a fraction of the monthly consumption in Japan, which ranges between 450 and 500 tons. It is regretted that though there is thus still a great deficit for domestic requirements it is impossible for the above-mentioned mines, now controlled by small capitalists, to be extended with the necessary rapidity.

FUR SALES AT NIZHNI FAIR.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow, Sept. 15.]

A Moscow business man who yearly attends the Nizhni Novgorod fair submitted the following report of the market for 1915:

The course of this year's fair was brisk, taking the war into consideration. The demand for certain articles in England and the United States influenced the fair, and the prices for such articles rose considerably in comparison with prices before the fair. In comparison with former years, however, the fair was somewhat dull and inactive. Many of the buyers were absent, and the majority of the goods were either not dispatched to the fair or were delayed in delivery on account of the congestion of traffic.

Astrakhan, Badgers, Colt Skins, Ermine, and Marmot.

The exportation of astrakhans being prohibited and the principal buyers from Germany being absent, these goods remained unsold. For domestic purposes astrakhan lining was bought at \$6.18 to \$7.73. Raw astrakhans have been bought by the manufacturers up to \$0.18 per pair, and raw Moie were bought up to \$0.77 per skin. On account of a considerable demand for badgers for England, many parcels of good quality were bought at 1.35 to 1.40 rubles (\$0.70 to \$0.72) per skin. Colt skins were neglected, but a few parcels were sold to Russian glove makers up to 1.30 rubles (\$0.67) per skin. At the beginning of the fair there was a fair demand for ermines. At the finish, however, the demand relaxed and prices fell off. Good Berezovsky goods fetched \$1.24 to \$1.13 per skin, Petchersky up to \$0.88, Archangel goods up to \$0.82, Tomsky up to \$0.82, and west Russian goods up to \$0.67; best Ishimsky were not on the market. Kolinsky was neglected; only a few parcels were bought for speculation at \$0.62. Marmots also were neglected, and only at the finish of the fair was there some interest in these goods. However, no transactions have been concluded, as the main parcels are lying in Moscow. It is possible that in the near future some big transactions will take place. There was no demand for martens.

Persian Lamb, Red Fox, and Sables.

Before the fair commenced the Russian dealers bought best raw Persian lamb skins up to \$39 to \$41 for 10 skins and at the beginning of the fair disposed of these goods at a good profit, so that they were obliged to buy new goods. However, on account of the main parcels being delayed on the way, there was a scarcity of these goods, and prices went up, so that for best goods up to \$59 was paid. However, the dealers could not sell these goods at a profit, and therefore at the end of the fair prices went down. Doubtless in the late autumn prices will be the same as before the Nizhni fair. Owing to the permission just received, Persian lamb skins may be forwarded to England, but not direct to America, and this might later on result in some purchases for America. At the fair, however, only a few parcels were bought for the United States. There was a large demand for red fox, especially for the best grades. The light goods, however, as Mongolian, Semipalatinsky, and Karaganka, were quite neglected. West Russian foxes fetched up to \$4.10 each, central Russian foxes up to \$7.20, east Russian up to \$7.70, Tobolsky up to \$8.20, Finnish up to \$8.75 and \$9.25, Yakutsky up to \$11.30, and Kamtchatsky up to \$13.90. Sables were much in demand.

Squirrel Skins, Linings, and Tails.

There was a very brisk demand for squirrel skins, and almost all parcels in stock were cleared. Russian backs fetched up to \$0.135 each, Zavodsky fetched up to \$0.145, Russian squirrel skins fetched up to \$0.175, and Lensky skins up to \$0.21 each. Kargopolsky 6 rows back and belly linings combined fetched up to \$16.50; the same linings, 7 rows, fetched up to \$18.50. Selenia belly linings fetched from \$1.90 to \$2.35. Obsky belly linings sold up to \$4.65; Altaisky up to \$5.65; Nertchinsky up to \$6.20, and Grudzovy up to \$5.40. Seven-row squirrel back linings fetched up to \$28.30; 8-row back linings up to \$43.80, and 12-row back linings up to \$64.35 per lining. Only a few parcels of raw squirrel skins were sold. At the beginning of the fair the owners would not sell squirrel tails under \$2.85 per pound. At the end, however, they offered the goods at \$2.50, but there were no buyers.

White Fox, Hares, Wolves, etc.

White fox was in brisk demand, about 8,000 foxes being sold. Yenisseisky goods fetched up to \$14.95 per skin; Surgutsky up to \$12.85; Obdorsky up to \$11.35; Petchersky up to \$13.40; and Yakutsky up to \$14.95.

There was a very brisk demand for white hares, dressed. At the finish of the fair for the furs of the best manufacture up to \$0.33 was paid. Wolves were very much in demand and fetched up to \$5.15 per skin. No transactions took place in lynx or wolverines. Only a few parcels of calfskins were bought for speculation up to \$0.33 per pound. Many parcels of horsehair did not arrive in time. Parcels were bought at \$0.50 to \$0.57 per pound. Cowhides were much in demand and only a few were for sale. The best goods fetched up to \$0.30 per pound. Horsehides sold up to \$5.40 per skin. The business with raw bristles has not been cleared up, and prices have not taken definite shape.

VENDING AND WEIGHING MACHINES IN CANADA.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul, Ottawa, Oct. 19.]

Ordinary slot machines are used to quite an extent in this consular district. Those observed are for vending candies, chewing gums, peanuts, matches, stamps, sanitary drinking cups, and for weighing. Many of these machines are of American manufacture, and offer a commendable illustration of adaptability to the requirements of a foreign market, the machines having to be constructed to receive Canadian coins, which differ in size from American coins.

In some cases business men purchase and install machines at their places of business, while in other cases manufacturers of candies, chewing gums, etc., loan machines to business men to facilitate the sale of their manufactures.

Slot machines appear to be used here to a less extent than in the United States, and but few of the more novel machines appear to have been installed. It is not possible to state just what the prospects are for introducing machines in this market of types differing from those now in use, but it may reasonably be assumed that there is a prospect for all suitable machines, as that which attracts and appeals to the American is apt to attract and appeal to the Canadian.

ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA.*[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Sept. 14.]*

There are several important electric power plants in operation in southern India and a number of schemes for further development are being pushed forward despite temporary dislocation of trade and industry caused by the war. If these new plants are built, much new machinery will be required, and possibly some will be sought from the United States, though at present little is brought direct from that country.

The most important electrical enterprise in this region for industrial purposes is that in the native State of Mysore, where the Cauvery Electric Power Works at Sivasamudram has a station capacity of 16,700 horsepower and transmits power 92 miles at 35,000 volts to the Kolar gold fields. A further 5,000 horsepower is about to be installed. Five gold mines in the Kolar fields are supplied with electricity from these works, and have thus been enabled to do without steam power altogether. The company also furnishes electric light to near-by settlements, notably to Mysore town, with 68,000 inhabitants, the native capital of Mysore State. In connection with this enterprise the Mysore Government employs an American chief engineer.

Association of Business Enterprises.

In Madras, the third largest city in India, and the foremost in southern India, there is a very modern electric plant operated by the General Electric Co. (Ltd.), India, which is a branch of the General Electric Co. (Ltd.), of London, Witton, Manchester, and Birmingham, England. The local company is in turn associated with the Madras Electric Supply Corporation of this city, which is incorporated in England. Amalgamated with these two concerns is the Madras Electric Tramway Co., which operates about 25 miles of street car lines in Madras. It will thus be seen that the power plant of the General Electric Co. at Madras is one of importance. The company is in fact now increasing its capacity, and has about completed a new plant for furnishing alternating current power to the suburbs. This will be three-phased current, of 50 cycles at 225 volts. Until now the company has had only direct current, the voltage usually used for motors being 225 volts. Very little of the power furnished by this plant is used for manufacturing purposes, as there are few factories in the vicinity of Madras employing electricity. The principal uses, therefore, are for lighting purposes, for the street car system, and for the operation of electric fans. Power is sold at fairly cheap rates, cost of manufacturing being decreased by use of Indian coal. Practically all houses of Europeans are now lit by electricity, as also are the houses of well-to-do natives. Electric fans are very generally used in European residences and offices, and are rapidly supplanting native "punkahs." The power plant furnishes current daily to at least 8,000 fans.

Prospective Carrying Out of Enterprises.

Among hydroelectric schemes which seem likely of realization is that at Coimbatore, in Madras Presidency, where it is proposed to make use of the Siruvani River for power purposes in furnishing electricity to the mills of that section and to the important railway towns of Trichinopoly and Madura. The chief engineer of the

Madras Government went recently to make an investigation of the feasibility of this scheme and is expected soon to render a report.

At Ootacamund, the summer capital of the Madras Government, which is reputed to be one of the finest hill stations in India, there is no electric power plant, but it is proposed to use neighboring waterfalls for this purpose. In Cochin on the Malabar coast investigations are being made as to the possibility of obtaining power for electricity from waterfalls in the Cochin Hills, and in Travancore there are also investigations. No railways in India have adopted electric traction, but it is said that several schemes are being considered by the Indian State-owned railways.

Sales Arrangements.

It will be noted from the foregoing that the possibility of making sales of electrical supplies at present is confined practically to the large enterprises already established and which are in fact to some extent operated from head offices in London.

However, in view of the future possibilities it is believed that the local market is worth cultivating and as neither of the large power companies mentioned actually sell supplies, American manufacturers desiring to bring their goods to the attention of local dealers might find it worth while to correspond with any of the firms whose names are given on the list forwarded. This would be of use as regards future development rather than for immediate orders for it is doubtful if much new business can be obtained at present. Names given on the list are those of European firms that have been established for some time and whose head offices in most cases are in London. The credit of these firms is considered good. Reasonable credit terms are extended. Most of the connections formed in Madras by American manufacturers are on an agency basis. After references have been exchanged, etc., and goods ordered, they are received on consignment, and after the sales have been completed the net proceeds are remitted to the American exporter, less the commission agreed upon. This commission would vary from 2½ to 10 per cent, according to the line of goods concerned and the amount of business that could be transacted.

[The list mentioned by the consul may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 67791. Attention is also called to the complete list of electrical plants in India, which will be found in the recent Handbook of India, for sale at \$1 by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., and by the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

SACKS MADE OF PAPER COMPETE WITH JUTE.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Chile, Sept. 23.]

The warp and woof of the fabric of a sack that is now being used to some extent to ship ores from Antofagasta are made of strips of paper doubled or twisted, in combination with a small quantity of some short vegetable fiber. These sacks come from Germany and have competed with the jute sacks brought from India. Before the war sacks sold for about 14 cents each, but are now worth about 24.3 cents each. The scarcity of vessels to bring jute sacks from India is the cause of the rise in price.

It is stated that these paper sacks will stand hard usage and be available for several shipments before wearing out. Their use is just beginning here.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Snap fasteners, No. 19113.—An American consular officer in China writes that a firm in his district desires to receive samples, catalogues, and price lists of snap fasteners used in the manufacture of women's clothing. The firm also desires information regarding the machinery used for making such fasteners. Samples of the fasteners now used by the firm may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 67983.)

Plated ware, art metal work, glassware, toys, etc., No. 19114.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Spain that a man in his district is interested in the importation of plated ware, art metal work, glassware, toys, etc. Correspondence and catalogues should be in Spanish. The man will pay cash on arrival of goods at destination.

Wire cloth, cordage and twines, sandpaper, and window glass, No. 19115.—An American consular officer in South Africa transmits the name of a firm which desires to represent American manufacturers of wire cloth, cordage and twine, sandpaper, and window glass. Correspondence, as well as literature and price lists, may be in English.

Picture-frame moldings, No. 19116.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of picture-frame moldings.

Toilet articles, No. 19117.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Switzerland that a man in his district desires to make direct connections with American manufacturers and exporters of toilet articles. Samples, together with quotations c. i. f. French ports, are desired. References are given. Correspondence may be in English.

Cotton waste, No. 19118.—An American consular officer in an insular possession reports that a firm in his district is in the market for cotton waste. The firm is prepared to pay cash against shipping documents in New York. Samples and prices are wanted at once.

Translations, No. 19119.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American firms interested in having letters translated into the different dialects of India. The firm states that it has facilities for distributing circulars, etc., throughout India.

Ice-making and refrigerating plant, No. 19120.—The Municipal Council of the city of Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, invites tenders until December 30, 1915, for the supply and erection of an ice-making and refrigerating plant for the Municipal Abbatoirs, Johannesburg. It is estimated that the plant will cost about \$37,500. Local representation is not absolutely necessary. Tenders should be addressed to the Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, Johannesburg, Transvaal. Copies of the specifications may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 67984.)

Glass and hypodermic syringes, No. 19121.—An American consular officer in England reports that a man in his district desires to import glass syringes, hypodermic glass syringes for hospital use, glass tubes for serums and drugs, and other surgical glassware. Descriptive catalogues and price lists are desired. Reference is given.

Sugar, No. 19122.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a firm in that country desires cable quotations from American manufacturers for sugar in lumps, crystallized, in cones, and small squares. Customary American terms and conditions will be accepted. Prices should be given c. i. f. French port. Samples are desired. Correspondence may be in English.

Coal and coke, No. 19123.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Spain that a man in his district is interested in the importation of American coal for steamers, coke, and coal for gas. The man states that he can use at present 2,000 tons of steam coal, 200 tons of coke, and 500 tons of gas coal. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Hardware and toys, No. 19124.—An American consular officer in India reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers interested in establishing an agency for hardware and toys.

Razors, No. 19125.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of ordinary and safety razors. Catalogues and, if possible, samples should be sent. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.

General agency, No. 19126.—A business man in Switzerland wishes to act as representative of American firms interested in exporting goods to Switzerland. References are given. The man does not specify any particular line.

Chemicals, electrical supplies, and mining machinery, No. 19127.—The Bureau is informed that a man in Spain desires to represent American dealers in commercial chemicals, electrical supplies, and mining machinery.

Groceries, cotton and knit goods, shoes, hardware, etc., No. 19128.—An American consular officer in South America reports that a firm in his district desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of preserves, rice, potatoes, dried and fresh fruits, beans, cottonseed oil, peanuts, eggs, cotton and knit goods, hosiery, shoes of all kinds, fine leathers for making shoes, hardware, glass, enamel and porcelain ware, etc. References are given.

Brick machinery, No. 19129.—An American consular officer in England reports that only two replies to Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 18075 have been received, one being an offer of a pulverizer and the other a machine for making sand-lime bricks. The firm wants a machine to make bricks from material ground from a hard quartz, to deliver two bricks at a time on iron plates. The bricks must not receive a greater pressure than 40 to 50 pounds.

Pianos, cotton and woolen goods, etc., No. 19130.—A firm in South Africa desires to represent American manufacturers of pianos, woolen goods, hosiery, prints, calicoes, linens, cottons, worsteds, serges, linings, and general supplies for tailoring work, as well as buttons, canvas, and duck. The firm will act as agent, on a commission basis, and will supply references on request.

Minerals and ores, No. 19131.—An American consular officer in India reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American dealers in pink and black marble, gypsum, selenite, felspar white, felspar red, mica, soapstone, asbestos, black schist, kaolin, calcite, cobaltiferous wad, red oxide of iron, yellow oxide of iron, chalk, alkaline earth, garnet and bituminous limestone. The man can also supply any quantities of kapok, cotton and silk, bristles and crushed bones.

Coconut-oil machinery, caustic soda, textiles, etc., No. 19132.—The representative of an enterprise in the Philippine Islands, who is now in the United States, desires to obtain full information concerning the manufacture of coconut oil and the necessary machinery, with a view to placing an order for the complete equipment of a copra-crushing establishment which will have an initial daily output of 15 to 30 barrels of oil. He wants apparatus for crushing the copra and refining and handling the oil, as well as the necessary power plant. The company which he represents is interested in machinery for desiccating copra, for making butter and soap, and for manufacturing coir matting. The man also wishes to purchase at once for a firm in the Philippines 50 tons of caustic soda. He is interested in handkerchiefs, socks, underwear, ties, towels, caps, and enameled ware. The cheaper grades of these latter goods, such as carried by 5 and 10 cent stores, are required.

Automobiles, No. 19133.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a man in that country wishes to represent American exporters of automobiles ranging in prices from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Payments will be made cash against documents.

Laundry machinery, No. 19134.—A business man in the United States writes that the director of a hotel in Russia is in the market for American laundry machinery.

Wool, cotton, and linen goods, No. 19135.—An American consular officer in Sweden reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of wool, cotton, and linen goods.

MARKET FOR PIANOS IN BURMA.

[Consul Maxwell K. Moorhead, Rangoon, Aug. 30.]

The imports of pianos into Burma by sea during each of the three years ended March 31, from 1913 to 1915, according to official customs figures at Rangoon, were:

Countries.	1912-13		1913-14		1914-15	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
United Kingdom.....	28	\$3,540	22	\$3,290	37	\$5,960
Germany.....	23	3,310	20	3,480	16	2,750
Austria.....	35	6,130	25	3,750	7	1,070
United States.....	1	340	.....	.....	1	160
Other countries.....	5	760	3	410	2	240
Total.....	92	14,080	70	10,910	63	10,200

These figures do not represent the total imports into Burma for the reason that a considerable number of pianos are purchased through musical houses in Calcutta. One of the principal dealers in Rangoon has estimated that at least 100 new pianos are sold annually in Burma.

The trade has been controlled by German and Austrian manufacturers, who have taken the trouble to make their pianos suitable for this very hot and damp climate. German and Austrian pianos have been considered superior by the local trade. Now that importations from Germany and Austria have been stopped American manufacturers should get a share of the large Indian trade.

Special Requirements Because of Climate.

The leading piano dealers in Burma, at the request of this consulate, have furnished a statement of the requirements in manufacture, in order to make pianos salable in Burma. They say:

The special features of manufacture of pianos suitable for and calculated to withstand the extremes and peculiarities of the varying climatic conditions which are obtaining here must embody the following: (a) Case work must be of solid wood throughout, of one piece (preferably mahogany, which has proved itself most suitable), and must be screwed throughout as well as glued, and should be further secured by brass corners. (b) Action must be riveted where possible, and in other parts stitched with silk, so as to make it as little as possible dependent on glue, and made extra free in the centers. (c) Iron frame to be cast in one piece. (d) Keys should be covered with fine celluloid, screwed over the front of the key in one piece, and screwed both ends. The sound-board ribs must be screwed at close intervals.

These precautionary measures seem incomprehensible to those manufacturers who have had no experience in the trying nature of our climate.

Then again, the terms we have enjoyed, namely, six months credit from both English and German houses, is a factor of no small importance to us. If you are in a position to obtain for us from American manufacturers all these facilities as to manufacture and terms, on hearing from you to this effect we shall be happy to foster and build up a connection for American products as we have been instrumental in doing for others whose goods we have handled.

If American manufacturers will carry out these suggestions as to manufacture, and will grant more liberal terms of credit, there is no doubt that a large trade could be created in India and throughout all tropical countries.

[Further facts regarding the imports of pianos and other musical instruments into India are given in the recent publication of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, "British India, with Notes on Ceylon, Afghanistan, and Tibet" (Special Consular Reports No. 72), which may be obtained at \$1 per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the branch offices of the Bureau.]

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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
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NORWEGIAN DEFENSE COMMISSIONER TO VISIT HERE.

[American Minister A. G. Schmedeman, Christiania, Oct. 16.]

A communication has been received, under date of the 15 instant, from the Royal Norwegian Department for Foreign Affairs, announcing that Mr. Johan Mölbach-Thellefsen has been appointed the special commissioner of the Norwegian Government (Department of Defense), and intends to proceed shortly to the United States for the purpose of making purchases and placing orders.

RESULTS OF TRIANGULATION WORK PUBLISHED.

Positions of 369 triangulation stations in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri are given by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, in Special Publication No. 30, which has just been issued. The work forms part of a transcontinental triangulation from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The geographic positions, on the North American datum, of all stations in the area covered, are given, together with all available descriptions of these points.

Aside from its scientific interest, the volume has a large practical value, as it offers to the engineer and map maker a large number of points determined trigonometrically and correlated on one geodetic datum. These stations or points are a part of a framework, composed of the connected triangulation of the country, from which the State, county, or private surveyor may extend triangulation of a lower grade for the control of detailed work.

Copies of the publication may be obtained by interested persons on application to the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

METAL GOODS MARKET IN JAPAN.

[Extract from Japan Advertiser of Oct. 6, by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

Regarding the recent tendency of the quotations for iron goods, it is reported that the day after the outbreak of war last year quotations rose by over 75 per cent. But means of importation have proved easier than expected, and quotations recently fell to such an extent that they were higher than those prior to the war by only 30 or 40 per cent. Quite recently, however, quotations have shown a tendency to rise, owing to the impossibility of obtaining supplies from Germany and Belgium and the embargo on iron goods enforced in England. Moreover, prices in the British and American markets are also gradually rising. These causes, together with the increase in freight rates, have now caused quotations on the home market to be higher by over 100 per cent than prior to the war. Another reason for this rise is that all the output from Japan's iron mines is being consumed for munitions of war, and the shortage of supply for house-building or shipbuilding materials is keenly felt.

The following comparative table shows the prices of various iron and other metal goods in September this year and July last year and the percentage of increase:

	July, 1914.	Sept., 1915.	Percentage of increase.
Pig iron (100 pounds)	\$0.93	\$1.05	12.2
Iron rods (100 pounds)	1.48	2.80	95.5
Iron pipe (1 inch diameter, 1 foot length).....	.0498	.0772	55
Copper (100 pounds)	22.88	28.48	22.4
Electrolytic copper (100 pounds).....	25.80	31.01	20
Lead (100 pounds).....	4.67	5.30	13.6
Zinc iron wires (100 pounds).....	2.44	4.09	67.9
Zinc iron plate (6 feet) corrugated .....	.3337	.5229	56.6
Zinc iron plate (plain) No. 30 .....	.3184	.5325	60.8
Iron nails (100 pounds)	2.35	4.33	84.1
Horseshoe nails (100 pounds)	5.98	9.33	56.3

TRIPOLI NEEDS BARLEY AND COTTONSEED OIL.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Tripoli, Libya, Sept. 24.]

In view of the price at which barley is being sold at wholesale by the municipality of Tripoli (\$1.17 a bushel), it is believed that, notwithstanding the high exchange, the American article could be handled here at a good profit. Importers are being interested in the possibility of direct business.

Cottonseed oil offers another opening. Native olive oil does not reach this market freely, and the demand for this substitute has increased. It is said to be mixed with the product of Italian olives to suit the native palate. Supplies have been arriving regularly from the United States through the Genoese agent of a well-known mill.

There has been a general augmentation of food values in Tripoli, and the municipal counsel has, from time to time, issued proclamations establishing prices. A recent order (Sept. 11) fixes new limits for certain articles.

[A very full review of the food situation in Tripoli, with details of price fluctuations, has been received from Consul Dorsey, and may be examined by application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67958.]

ATTEMPT TO MEET SHIPPING DEMANDS AT ADEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur G. Watson, Aden, Arabia, Sept. 30.]

It is probable that the bulk of the accumulation of skins and hides, intended for the United States, which has been lying at Aden awaiting shipment since the end of May, will shortly be cleaned up. Since the end of August increased space has been arriving at Aden, and several merchants have shipped practically all their stocks. It is difficult to say positively whether the congestion will actually be relieved, but the indications point that way. It looks as if conditions similar to those of last year may prevail, with sufficient regular space to take away accumulations until February or early March, but after that time, in the opinion of many persons, space will be scarce for several months.

Opportunities for shipments of coffee have been more freely offered, as it is classed as "clean" cargo, but at times shippers of coffee have severely felt the shortage of shipping facilities.

The Italian lines are accepting freight for New York only, transshipment at Naples, at \$45.42 per ton for skins and hides and \$25.95 for coffee. The British lines are charging \$32.44 per ton for skins and hides to American ports and \$19.46 for coffee, with transshipment at London. The British India agents, the greatest carriers from Aden, have been instructed not to accept any cargo for America, owing to the difficulty in obtaining space from London and the possibility of increases in freights from London to American ports. Their agents at Aden are, however, accepting cargo for American ports at the rates mentioned, obtaining from the shippers letters to the effect that any increase in transshipment or on carrying freight will be borne by the shipper.

Secretary to Attaché at Petrograd to be Chosen.

A private secretary to the American commercial attaché in Petrograd, Russia, will soon be appointed. The duties call for a knowledge of the Russian language, stenography, and typewriting. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce desires that its appointee should be as well equipped in every way as possible, and will conduct a competitive examination for the position, which pays a salary of \$1,500 per annum and traveling expenses. The best of references will be required of all candidates to be considered. Application should be made to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C., stating education and knowledge of foreign languages.

COMBINATIONS OF GERMAN PACKERS OF CANNED GOODS.

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, Germany, Oct. 13.]

The Brunswick Landeszeitung of October 13, 1915, reports that a combination of the German Packers of Canned Goods is being formed to regulate their relations with the large distributing houses. The object will be to regulate prices, which has become necessary on account of market fluctuations, and also to obtain better terms of payment from the distributing houses. A central station for purchasing raw goods will be established.

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF UNITED STATES FOR SEPTEMBER.

The usual monthly statement of the foreign trade of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The imports and exports by great groups during the month of September and the nine months ending with September are presented in the following statement:

Groups.	Month of September—		9 months ending September—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
IMPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing	\$45,375,279	\$59,183,718	\$491,608,714	\$494,652,398
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals	16,346,219	22,043,141	175,476,569	169,230,328
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured	27,164,332	18,641,718	208,363,992	224,083,155
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing	18,912,281	26,639,083	217,499,142	190,457,773
Manufactures ready for consumption	30,017,536	23,101,113	314,512,045	214,196,493
Miscellaneous	1,574,434	1,621,253	12,611,412	9,444,649
Total imports.....	139,710,611	151,236,028	1,410,071,874	1,302,094,786
EXPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	18,344,571	43,677,599	358,759,342	418,763,536
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals	41,560,104	32,740,584	170,095,871	321,858,241
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	26,760,785	44,473,716	197,446,280	443,550,973
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing	21,197,243	42,380,753	261,889,479	328,107,485
Manufactures ready for consumption	44,038,877	122,380,180	465,961,402	873,732,781
Miscellaneous	1,029,812	10,100,264	5,363,745	96,261,163
Total domestic exports	153,301,322	285,648,296	1,449,075,139	2,490,274,164
Foreign merchandise exported.....	2,800,941	5,028,526	27,326,070	42,211,003
Total exports.....	156,032,333	300,676,822	1,467,401,989	2,532,485,167

MARACAIBO'S SEPTEMBER COFFEE EXPORTS.

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, Venezuela, Oct. 6.]

Exports of coffee from Maracaibo during September, 1915, were: For New York, 33,263 bags; for Amsterdam, 5,100 bags; for Marseille, 2,000 bags; for Genoa, 1,599 bags; total, 41,962 bags, compared with 58,008 bags for September, 1914, a falling off of 16,046 bags.

The average for September during the 10 years from 1905 to 1914 was 38,430 bags, so that this year the total was 3,532 bags above the average.

Entrances of coffee for September, 1915, amounted to 51,527 bags, containing 5,951,625 pounds, compared with 27,166 bags, containing 3,087,275 pounds, in September, 1914. The total entered from January 1 to September 30, 1915, was 493,974 bags, containing 56,607,200 pounds, compared with 446,781 bags, containing 50,382,025 pounds, in the corresponding period of 1914.

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

Consul William J. Grace, of Aden, Arabia, now in the United States on leave of absence until about December 15, 1915, states that his home address will be 233 Stuyvesant Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., and that his address for trade conferences will be the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.

FINAL FORECAST OF THE JUTE CROP.

[Consul General James A. Smith, Calcutta, India, Sept. 22.]

The Department of Agriculture of Bengal has published the final forecast of the jute crop of 1915, showing the acreage and estimated outturn. Although the season has not been unfavorable, so far as the distribution and the rainfall are concerned, except in some parts of Bengal, the crop has been greatly damaged by flooding in certain districts. The final figures of acreage and production for the three Provinces, for this year and last year, are:

Provinces.	Acres.		Bales.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
Bengal:				
Western	467,199	325,858	1,337,698	1,051,399
Northern	855,511	601,614	2,734,433	1,975,539
Eastern	1,549,694	1,158,798	5,235,887	3,479,128
Cooch Behar	44,413	27,566	135,537	72,335
Bihar and Orissa	330,120	188,090	678,787	692,873
Assam	111,600	75,400	307,463	157,459
Total	3,358,737	2,377,316	10,531,505	7,428,733

* Including Nepal.

[A dispatch, printed in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 12, 1915, from Dundee, Scotland, gave similar acreage and outturn, although there was a slight difference in the total number of acres under cultivation. The present report gives the figures by separate Provinces. Other dispatches on the jute crop were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 23, Aug. 30, and Oct. 9, 1915.]

LOWER PRICES AT AMSTERDAM TOBACCO SALES.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 15.]

Twelve public sales of tobacco have been held in Amsterdam this year. There were 246,543 packages of Sumatra sold, at an average price of \$0.336 per pound, compared with 251,689 packages, at an average price of \$0.47 per pound, at the corresponding sales in 1914. At the same sales 14,942 packages of Borneo brought an average price of \$0.218 per pound this year, against 14,026 packages at an average of \$0.245 in 1914.

The lower prices this year were due to inferior quality, on the whole, but dealers say that American buyers paid about the same prices as last year, because they took the best qualities. It is noteworthy that the prices for the 12 sales this year are much below the average quoted in a report from this consulate covering the first five sales, published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 18, 1915. A prominent dealer explains that every year the tendency is to buy the best qualities at the first sales.

German buyers were formerly an element of strong competition.

Consul Henry M. Wolcott, at Habana, reports that a \$15,000 company has been formed in the American citrus fruit growing colony at La Gloria, Oriente Province, Cuba, for manufacturing citric acid from limes.

BETTER RESULTS POSSIBLE WITH BRAZILIAN COAL.

[American Ambassador Edwin V. Morgan, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 15.]

The present scarcity of foreign coal in Brazil, resulting from the partial suspension of the importation of coal from England which the European war caused, has drawn the attention of Brazilian mineralogists to the national supply of that commodity. Dr. Orville A. Derby, Director of the Federal Geological and Mineralogical Service, contributed, on September 12, to the *Jornal do Comercio* of this city, an interesting article on Brazilian coal.

Dr. Derby refers to the exhaustive report upon the subject that was made a few years ago by Dr. I. C. White, and calls attention to the relative lack of interest aroused by the portion of that report relating to national coal heavily charged with gas. It is Dr. Derby's opinion that as a result of washing and the manufacture of national coal into briquets, the latter can be used effectively in locomotive engines and not confined, as at present, to stationary machines. He says in his discussion:

Brazilian commerce has at hand a means of making a ton of national coal equal to three times itself, and nearly a ton and a half of the best imported coal which it at present consumes. It is simply a question of substituting gas machines for its steam machines, fed by national coal. This is an industrial revolution which is rapidly taking place in countries which produce a superior quality of coal and in which, too, its economic and political importance are much less than will be the case in Brazil when, as must inevitably occur, it becomes effective here. Would it not be well for Brazilian industrial and public powers to hasten the advent of this revolution?

Use of Briquets in Locomotives.

By the substitution of gas machines, in which successful experiments have been made for furnaces, the question of the use of inferior coal will be settled. Locomotives, however, must continue to use furnaces, but not necessarily with the present method, which is prejudicial to the value of national coal. Recent reports from the United States show the success of the experiments which have been made there with the system of injecting coal reduced to fine powder into the furnaces of the locomotives, and state that the management of the Central Railway of Brazil is preparing to try that system. If, as there is every reason to expect, it is proven that national coal can be used on railways with the strict selection resulting from washing and briquets which is now considered necessary, a new horizon will be opened for the use of national coal and for the economic future of the country.

I would add that this system does not involve, as does that of gas, the substitution of other machines and fixtures, but only a few alterations analogous to those necessary for the substitution of liquid for solid combustibles.

[COMMERCE REPORTS, in its issues of Apr. 24, June 23, and July 24, presented in detail the factors entering into the coal situation in Brazil and other tropical countries.]

CIGAR FACTORY IN PANAMA.

[Consul General Alban G. Snyder, Panama City, Oct. 12.]

An American capitalist in this city has just opened a cigar factory in Panama. He intends at present to manufacture only Habana cigars for sale on the Canal Zone and to ships using the canal, and is importing pure Cuban tobacco direct from Habana for this purpose.

[The address of the manufacturer may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 67,736.]

JAPAN'S NEW TRADE IN LINEN AND HEMP CLOTH.

[Extract from Japan Times, Sept. 18, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

The war has opened a new trade for Japan in the form of linen and hemp-cloth exports. Japan's hemp industry has recently progressed so rapidly, having been stimulated by the success of flax growing in Hokkaido, that when the war began the time was ripe for the opening of trade with the outside countries.

England was the greatest supplier of hemp cloth and linen before the war, but now that the war has cut off the supply of raw material, she can not carry on the line so actively as before, while Russia, though she is one of the greatest producers of flax and hemp, can not turn over cloth, her workmen being too unskilled to increase the supply of cloth. Accordingly all buyers, in which, curiously enough, those two countries are now included, have turned to this country for the increasing supply of cloth.

England has recently placed great orders with Japanese mills, and some of them are already filled; hemp yarn and cloth to the amount of \$74,700 and \$249,000, respectively, are a recent shipment to Great Britain. Prices in England being markedly dearer than in this country, Japanese millers are blessed with unexpectedly large margins of profit.

Russia and the Dutch Indies have also placed big orders with mills here, but so far many of them have been declined on account of the comparatively small extent of production in mills here. The season's crop of flax in Hokkaido is said to be very favorable.

PROPOSE PERMANENT NETHERLANDS EXHIBIT.

A permanent exhibition of the products of the Netherlands in San Francisco has been proposed by the Holland-American Chamber of Commerce of that city as a means of furthering trade between the Pacific coast of the United States and that European country. Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, representing the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in San Francisco, reports that the Holland-American Chamber of Commerce has undertaken to interest the Netherlands firms now exhibiting at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in the project of opening a permanent showroom in San Francisco after the close of the exposition for the display of various articles and for the purpose of furnishing trade information. It has been proposed that such an office should be opened before January 1, 1916.

LIFE INSURANCE AMONG THE CHINESE .

[Consul G. C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Sept. 18.]

During August, 1915, an Englishman and a Dane, agents of the China Mutual Life Insurance Co. (Ltd.) (British), traveled through this part of Kwangtung Province from Chaochowfu to Hing-ning via Kaying soliciting insurance among the Chinese. All the large towns were visited en route, and the results of the canvassing are reported to have been surprisingly successful.

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYS TO BE ELECTRIFIED.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Sept. 16.]

At the present time two schemes for electrifying certain existing lines of urban and suburban railways are engaging the attention of the local transportation departments. The railway service known as the North Shore line, running from Milson's Point (the traffic center immediately opposite the city proper) to Hornsby (13 miles away on the main line from Sydney to the north) is about to be electrified. Already a tunnel under the harbor for carrying the necessary supply cable is being driven, and but for an unexpected interruption, due to a fault in the rock, would have been nearly completed by this time. The idea is to supply power for this service from the existing generating station at White Bay on the Sydney side of the harbor. The work is being carried out by the Railway Department of the New South Wales Government.

The second project is much more extensive in conception and is only awaiting the passing of an enabling bill, now in the State Parliament, before being started. The subjoined outline of the proposed improvements has been furnished to this consulate general by an official of the public works department, Mr. J. J. C. Bradfield, who is chief engineer of metropolitan railway construction and is in full charge of the preliminary arrangements. Mr. Bradfield recently visited the United States, and it is interesting to know that his experiences there undoubtedly paved the way for considerable American business in connection with the forthcoming enterprise. Mr. Bradfield says:

Work to Be Undertaken.

The electric railways about to be undertaken in the metropolitan area of Sydney include: (a) The immediate electrification of the inner zone suburban railways, comprising 64 route miles or 200 track miles, and in the near future the electrification of the outer zone suburban railways radiating some 36 miles from Sydney, an additional length of 200 track miles. (b) The construction of a 16-mile, double-track loop railway around the city of Sydney. (c) The construction of double-track railways to the eastern, western, and northern suburbs, connecting with the existing railways and with the city railway—a length of 37 miles of single track.

The ruling grades will be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent with the load and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent against the load, while the sharpest curve is $11\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ radius. All platforms will be 520 feet long, and will be placed in shallow subways; access will be generally by steps. Power will be supplied from overhead wires to the train motors at 1,500 volts.

The railways to the northern and western suburbs necessitate long-span cantilever bridges across the harbor, without piers in the fairway; the bridge to North Sydney to be 1,600 feet center span, accommodating 4 lines of railway, a main roadway 35 feet wide, a motor roadway 18 feet wide, and a footway 15 feet wide. The bridge to Balmain to be 1,350 feet center span, accommodating two lines of railway and the same roadways and footways. The clear headway for shipping under the bridges to be 170 feet at high water.

Estimated Cost.

The total cost of the scheme is approximately £20,000,000 (\$97,330,000). An act authorizing the expenditure of £6,400,000 (\$31,145,600) is now before Parliament.

The construction of the city railway and portions of the eastern and western suburban railways are to be put in hand and carried out by Messrs. Norton Griffiths on a percentage basis, the Public Works Department supplying plant and material.

[A plan giving the location of the proposed railways and a bird's-eye view showing the city railway and the location of the harbor

bridges may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67724. Mention of the proposed change to electric traction on these railways was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Mar. 10, 1915.]

PICTURE POST CARDS IN PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Aug. 26.]

Portugal annually buys from other countries more than 1,000,000 post cards a year, and at present stocks are very low. The best selling cards are those with figures and landscapes. At Christmas and New Year's, the shops display large assortments of holiday cards with more or less appropriate scenes and greetings in French, English, or German. Although snow is never seen in Lisbon, holiday cards displaying houses and trees buried in snow are quite common and seem to be in demand. Dealers state that the best sellers would be appropriate Christmas or New Year's designs, with words in Portuguese.

The usual size of post cards is $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches and they are packed for shipment in pasteboard boxes. The Portuguese tariff assesses a duty on post cards of 1 escudo per kilo (about 32 cents per pound at present exchange). If imported direct from the United States the duty is 60 centavos (20 cents per pound); if imported via England, the full duty is collected. Under ordinary circumstances, importers expect three to six months' credit, but now they would pay cash against documents.

[A list of the leading post-card dealers in Lisbon and Oporto may be had, upon request, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 66212.]

YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS TO REDUCE COST OF SUPPLIES.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, Oct. 4.]

The West Riding Education Committee on September 29, 1915, considered and finally voted to adopt a proposal from the elementary subcommittee regarding the establishment of a central store to supply books, stationery, and apparatus to elementary schools, the stationery also to be supplied to other departments of the county council. The new method will make it possible to split up the schedule of goods supplied, which is a very complex one, containing upward of 500 items, in such a way as to enable publishers, manufacturers, and dealers in goods of different kinds to tender for direct supply of these items and at the same time to decrease the cost of distribution to schools.

The annual cost of the store is estimated as follows: Staff, \$3,099; carriage, postage, and packing materials, \$3,990; rates, taxes, fuel, light, cleaning, etc., \$632; annual working cost to cover payments made earlier than under the present system, \$875; total, \$8,599.10. The subcommittee has estimates showing that in the supply of books, stationery, etc., to elementary schools alone, it will be possible to effect savings to the extent of more than \$2,433.25 per annum beyond the expenses indicated.

IRON DEPOSITS OF BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 1.]

Although geographically nearly as large as the United States and in many places highly mineralized, Brazil is almost unexploited as a mining proposition. The mining laws of the country have recently been remodeled in a manner that provides a decided step toward modernization and practical applicability, but this legislation will not overcome the lack of transportation facilities from the interior and the high cost of freights and of labor, which have hitherto been obstacles sufficient to keep the truly great mineral resources of the Republic almost untouched. [An analysis of the new mining law referred to may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; ask for file No. 60286.]

Of Brazil's iron ores, the hematites are in Minas Geraes, Matto Grosso, Goyaz, and Bahia; the magnetites (some titaniferous) in São Paulo, Parana, Santa Catharina, and Rio Grande do Sul. The most important deposits by far are those of the State of Minas Geraes.

Extent of Deposits—Railways.

Through the central part of Minas Geraes extends the Serra de Espinhaço in a northerly-southerly direction. In this range of mountains are found nearly all of the mineral deposits of the State. The great iron area seems really to be within a well-defined rectangle, 56 miles long by 37 miles wide, with Burnier on the south side, Sabara on the north side, and Santa Barbara and Marianna on the east. In addition to the ores within this rectangle, scattered deposits extend northerly toward Diamantina, so that the high-grade iron-bearing formations probably occupy an area of some 2,200 square miles. If the lower-grade deposits are also considered, the area will be doubled in extent.

Three railroads either tap or are projected to tap this district. The most important is the Government-owned line (the Central Railway, which enters the iron area near its southwestern limit at Burnier and extends northward to Sabara. It also has branches extending from Burnier to Marianna and from Sabara to Santa Barbara. From Rio de Janeiro, the nearest seaport, to Burnier is about 370 miles, and to this point the road is broad gauge (5.25 feet), while from Burnier to the other points the road is reduced in gauge to 3.28 feet. Another railroad, the English-owned Leopoldina, does not enter this main rectangle, but is built to tap the deposits at Itabirra de Matto Dentro, north of the rectangle. Its seaport is also Rio de Janeiro, and the distance from Rio to Itabirra is about 390 miles. Still another railroad, French owned, is partially constructed to operate between the seaport Victoria and Itabirra de Matto Dentro, a distance also of about 390 miles.

Classification of Ores—Probable Tonnage.

The ores may be classified as follows:

I. Bedded ores.—(a) Very thick, bedded, massive, hematite, including the dense, hard blue and the fine and coarse specular varieties and martite. Beds are up to 300 feet in width and a mile in length. (b) Thin bedded laminated hematite, fine grained or crystalline, hard and soft. Beds not so wide as (a), but have great length.

II. Fragmental ores.—(a) Canga, a conglomerate of hematite pebbles cemented together with limonite. (b) Extensive beds of hematite "float" (rubble). (c) Sand ore; "float" mixed with sands in river bottoms and elsewhere.

III. Secondary ores, carbonates, etc.

The important ores commercially are the bedded hematites, both thick and thin, the Canga conglomerates, and the rubble ores.

In order to give some idea of the extent of the deposits, the Serviço Geológico do Brazil selected nine of the largest and entirely exposed deposits and computed the cubic contents of each separately. These are of the bedded (highest grade) type, and are not assumed to have an extension below the surface of the surrounding country. On this basis they gave an estimated tonnage of 988,000,000. Dr. Orville Derby, the director of the Geological Service of Brazil, thinks this figure can conservatively be doubled, which tonnage about equals the total reserve of the Lake Superior ores to-day.

In addition to the above-estimated tonnage, which includes the highest grade ore only, there are known to exist millions of tons of the lower grade Canga and rubble ores. One deposit of rubble is estimated to contain 20,000,000 tons, while the Canga ores, running higher than 50 per cent iron, would perhaps total 1,710,000,000 tons.

FAR EAST GAINS LARGE EXPORT TRADE IN TOYS.

[Extract from Japan Advertiser, Sept. 15, forwarded by Consul General George H. Seldmore, Yokohama.]

The progress of Japan's export trade in toys has been remarkable since the war broke out, especially in England and Australia. The export of toys to England was \$326,050 up to the end of July this year, while the amount for the corresponding period of last year was only \$131,748. The export to Australia in the same period this year was \$100,447, compared with \$25,408 last year. The only setback was in the export to China, probably because of the boycott that prevailed, in May, June, and July, but in August there was an export of \$188,159, or three times as large as the amount in August of last year. Thus there is undoubted indication that the trade with China is increasing.

Because of the remarkable increase in August, the amount of export to China up to the end of that month this year reached \$1,129,973, showing an increase of \$264,393 compared with the amount in the corresponding period of last year. The prospects of trade in this line with other Oriental countries are also very promising.

CARELESS PACKING OF AMERICAN PLASTER.

Failure to follow instructions as to the quality of bags, paper lining, and method of closing resulted in so heavy a loss on a recent shipment of American calcined plaster to Australia that the purchasers, who had anticipated placing substantial future orders, are much discouraged. Consul General Brittain's report on the subject (which describes the condition in which the shipment reached Sydney) and a sample of the paper lining of the bags may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67652.

BRITISH RAILWAYS ADOPT FIREPROOFING PROCESS.

[Consul Charles A. Holder, London, England, Sept. 29.]

The "oxylene" fireproofing process is owned by a London company. The London & Northwestern Railway, the Midland, and several other British railways, as well as the Metropolitan district and the London Electric Railways of London, have for some years past made a practice of sending to the "oxylene" works a part of the wood used in the construction of their passenger cars. This practice has increased lately, owing to the fact that the Board of Trade recommended a year or so ago that the woodwork of railway carriages should be rendered noninflammable in view of the numerous fire disasters on railways.

The London & Northwestern Railway has been sending to the fireproofing plant the wood to be used in constructing cars, but in view of the economy that would result by the saving in freight and in time as well, it has decided to install a plant for using the "oxylene" process under license and royalty to the company at the Wolverton works. The plant, which will shortly be finished, is capable of fireproofing approximately 150,000 cubic feet (the equivalent of 1,800,000 feet of board measure) of wood per annum, taking the various woods used in carriage building, such as mahogany, pine, deal, teak, white-wood, and maple into consideration.

Equipment of Plant Now Under Construction.

The plant consists of two 50-foot cylinders, each 6½ feet in diameter, together with the necessary pressure, vacuum, and circulating pumps; mixing, main, and subsidiary tanks; one boiler of 140 horsepower; a truck for conveying the timber into the cylinders; pipes, fittings, traverse table, steam winch, and dry-kiln machinery. The dry-kiln machinery consists of a fan, heater, and condenser, with a 20-horsepower motor.

The cost of the plant is to be about \$72,998. It is being constructed under the direct supervision of the fireproofing concern. Other railways, it is stated by the company, are concluding arrangements for the erection of similar plants in their carriage-building works.

[A circular describing the process employed for fireproofing purposes, with photographs taken at the plant of the company, will be loaned on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67527.]

GERMAN CANAL PROJECT.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Oct. 4.]

Plans for a direct waterway between Leipzig and Berlin, via Eilenberg, Luckenwalde, and Potsdam, are now under consideration. At the same time the old plans for a canal from the Elbe across the Elster to Senftenberg and Cottbus and for the Oder-Spree Canal are again being taken up.

The extraordinary growth and importance of the Niederlausitz industries require better and cheaper transportation facilities between the large cities. The various chambers of commerce in the Niederlausitz district and in Potsdam are encouraging these projects by offering both material and means to complete them. The magistrates of the cities concerned have also promised financial assistance.

GOVERNMENT AND FARMERS COOPERATE TO FATTEN POULTRY.

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Oct. 20.]

The prices realized for dressed poultry at country points in the West have been very low, with the result that little interest has been taken in poultry raising. There are several reasons for these low prices, chief of which is the fact that farm-dressed poultry is seldom properly killed and bled and, consequently, does not keep well even in cold storage. Knowing this, dealers have refused to handle the poultry except on a substantial margin of profit.

The Manitoba Department of Agriculture has opened a new department, known as "The Farmers' Cooperative Fattening Station," at the Manitoba Agricultural College. The station will be operated on a strictly cooperative basis; the farmers joining the movement will ship their stock to the station, where Government employees will attend to the fattening and marketing, the actual cost only to be charged for the service. This amount will be deducted from the market price, the balance forwarded to the farmer, who must furnish his own coops for transportation to the poultry department in Winnipeg. About 18 days will be consumed in the fattening process, on which basis the returns should be in the hands of the farmer about four weeks after shipment.

Another Province Inaugurates Similar System.

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture has inaugurated a similar system, in conjunction with the poultry husbandry division of the Saskatchewan College of Agriculture, and arranged to operate a poultry demonstration car over certain railway lines. A baggage car is being fitted up as a poultry receiving and killing station; a 6 weeks' itinerary, providing for 1-day visits to 34 selected towns, has been arranged, and farmers or others having poultry to dispose of are invited to bring the birds alive to the car when it visits their town.

Experts from the poultry husbandry division accompany the car and will receive, grade, and kill the birds and assist the producers with the plucking. When the fowls have been properly killed and graded, a representative of the cooperative organization branch of the Department of Agriculture will take delivery and make advance payments at prices in accord with their quality. When the birds have been cooled, they will be packed in boxes holding 12 birds each and placed in cold storage until conditions are favorable for marketing. When all of the birds have been disposed of, a final payment will be made to the producer, remitting every cent realized from the sale of his birds less the cost of boxes, transportation, and storage.

Through these practical demonstrations it is hoped the poultry producers, who will have an opportunity to assist, as well as watch, the experts in the operations of killing and dressing, will acquire much more information than could be imparted through lectures or other methods usually adopted, while the cooperative marketing end of the project should eliminate much waste and insure a remunerative cash market.

About 10 cars of pomegranates will be shipped east this season from Porterville, Cal., says the California Fruit News.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

- Bottles*, No. 19136.—A business man in the United Kingdom writes that he would like to communicate with American firms which are in a position to make quotations, up to 5,000 gross, on 10 and 20 ounce bottles for ale and stout.
- Roller bearings*, No. 19137.—A man in the United States writes that a friend of his in South America desires to communicate with American manufacturers of roller bearings.
- Hosiery, handkerchiefs, and haberdashery*, No. 19138.—An American consular officer in Sweden reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of hosiery, handkerchiefs, and haberdashery.
- Cravats*, No. 19139.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in France, that a man in his district desires to establish connections with American manufacturers of cravats of all kinds. Catalogues and price lists should be sent. Correspondence may be in English.
- Boot and shoe laces, machinery for making, etc.*, No. 19140.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of all kinds of boot and shoe laces, metal ends for shoe laces, and the machinery for making boot and shoe laces.
- Leather, electrical material, etc.*, No. 19141.—A business firm in the United States writes that a firm in Portugal desires to represent American exporters of shoe leather, gloss leather, and box calf. The firm also desires to represent American manufacturers of cartridges for hunting and to represent or buy for its own account electrical material. Reference is given. Correspondence should be in Portuguese.
- Beer*, No. 19142.—An American consul in the Far East reports that a firm in his district is in the market for a cheap beer for Chinese. The beer must not cost more than \$3.40 to \$3.65, c. l. f. destination, for 4 dozen quarts or 6 dozen pints, the former preferred.
- Snap fasteners*, No. 19143.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Italy that a man in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers or exporters of black and white snap fasteners for use in making women's wearing apparel. Samples, with full particulars as to prices for small orders and in larger quantities, terms, etc., are desired. Samples of the fasteners now used by the man may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 68129.)
- Railroad material, steel structural material, etc.*, No. 19144.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that a firm in his district desires to secure the representation of American manufacturers of narrow-gauge (Decauville) railway material, steel structural material, concrete mixing machines, steel cables and wire rope, brass trimmings and cabins for passenger elevators, derricks, cranes, excavating machinery, etc. Correspondence may be in Spanish or English. References are given.
- Cuff buttons and combs*, No. 19145.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Canada that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of cuff buttons of all kinds and rubber and celluloid combs. Reference is given.
- General agency*, No. 19146.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that a man in his district has announced his intention of beginning a general commission and manufacturers' agent business on January 1, 1916, and desires to communicate with exporters in the United States who desire to extend their business in that country. Correspondence may be in Spanish or English. No particular line is mentioned.
- Electrical goods*, No. 19147.—An American consular officer in Denmark writes that a man in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of electrical goods. References are given. Correspondence may be in English.

- Lactic acid*, No. 19148.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a man in his district desires to receive samples and quotations on lactic acid in bulk.
- Cotton*, No. 19149.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Venezuela that a man in his district desires to communicate with cotton exporters in the Gulf States. Correspondence may be in English or Spanish.
- Pocketknives and household articles*, No. 19150.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a firm in his district desires to secure quotations from American manufacturers and exporters of pocketknives and household articles. Reference is given.
- Sweet wines*, No. 19151.—An American consular officer in the Far East transmits the names of two firms which are interested in sweet wines.
- Steel bridges and bridge timbers*, No. 19152.—An American consular officer reports that tenders will be received until December 7, 1915, by Robert W. Hunt & Co., 2200 Insurance Exchange, Chicago, Ill., and West Street Building, New York, N. Y., for the construction of steel bridges and the furnishing of bridge timbers for the Hankow-Canton Railway, China. Copies of the drawings and specifications may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to files Nos. 67587 and 68110.)
- Florida sponges*, No. 19153.—An American consular officer in Germany desires to communicate with American exporters of Florida sponges.
- Rennet powder and cheese coloring*, No. 19154.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Argentina that a firm in his district desires to receive quotations on rennet powder and coloring materials used in the manufacture of cheese. References are given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Paper, postal cards, drawing materials, etc.*, No. 19155.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a man in his district desires to import printing, news, wrapping, colored, silk, and other kinds of paper; postal cards and drawing materials; and office supplies. The firm also desires to represent American manufacturers of printing machinery and type. References are given.
- Corrugated iron and iron pipes*, No. 19156.—An American consular officer in Italy writes that a firm in his district desires to receive quotations, c. i. f. destination, on corrugated iron; black iron, galvanized pipes, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch to 2 inches; and iron pipe used in the manufacture of iron bedsteads, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The firm is prepared to pay cash.
- Window and plate glass*, No. 19157.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in England that a firm in his district desires to receive immediate quotations for window and plate glass, approximately 50 to 60 inches long by 30 to 40 inches wide, with a view to purchasing large quantities. Reference is given.
- Cotton yarns and coal pitch*, No. 19158.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that a firm in his district desires to receive samples and quotations, c. i. f. destination, from American exporters on 5,000 kilos, count 1/24, black cotton yarn and 5,000 kilos, count 1/30, of the same quality. The yarn is to be dyed diamond black or a fast sulphur color. Quotations are also desired on light yarns, count 2/20 English on warps, one end of each warp to be crossed 1 by 1, and the other end of same to be crossed 10 by 10 thread. All yarns must be packed in bales very tightly pressed, the cubic dimensions of each bale to be about 0.685 m³. Both gross and net weight of each bale must be stated in the invoice, together with the cubic measurements, in meters, of each bale. Payment will be made against documents on arrival of merchandise. Quotations are also desired, c. i. f. destination, on coal pitch. References are given. Correspondence may be in Spanish or English. Samples of the yarns desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 68105.)

The new 2,500,000-bushel Government grain elevator at Calgary, Canada, is accessible to three railways.

GERMAN EXPOSITION FOR CARE OF WOUNDED.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Sept. 4.]

The "exposition for the care of war cripples and invalids" that is being held in Breslau under the auspices of the local branch of the Red Cross Society is in the nature of a traveling exposition. It was first held in Berlin, after which the exhibits were taken to Dresden, Budapest, Magdeburg, and Cassel (and are to be sent to other cities), always under the management of the various Red Cross branches and the patronage of H. R. H. the Duchess of Saxony-Meiningen.

The exposition itself is divided into nine groups: (1) Sanitary service for the field forces; (2) sanitary service for the Imperial Navy; (3) fight against infectious diseases in war; (4) use of X rays in the sanitary service in war; (5) the problems of the dentist in war; (6) the technical side in the care of wounded; (7) care of war cripples; (8) the sanitary service in war (general, the various institutions, equipment of nurses, etc.); and (9) historical survey on the sanitary service of all times. This last group especially shows what progress has been made in this line; there are demonstrating pictures, surgical instruments, artificial limbs, and other relics from ancient times down to the Napoleonic and Prussian wars. A special section is devoted to the work of the Breslau branch of the Red Cross.

[The complete report from which the foregoing extracts were taken and a booklet in German fully describing the exposition will be loaned to those interested by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington. Refer to file No. 67549a.]

GAS CONSUMPTION IN LEEDS.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, Oct. 4.]

According to the report of the Leeds Corporation Gas Committee for the year ended June 30, 1915, the consumption of gas amounted to 2,970,185,227 cubic feet, which was an increase of 5.2 per cent over the preceding year. Coal and cannell were consumed to the extent of 260,482 tons, or an increase of 5.5 per cent. Gas sold, including gas used on the works, gas-holder stations, etc., totaled 2,728,166,093 cubic feet, an increase of 5.7 per cent.

AGRICULTURAL CREDITS IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Oct. 7.]

The Governor of Bermuda is about to appoint a commission with instructions to make a comprehensive report on the applicability of agricultural cooperation and credit system to local farming, and the House of Assembly has voted an appropriation to defray the expenses of the commission.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

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REDUCTION OF DUTY ON FLOUR IN SPAIN.

[Telegram from American consul general, Barcelona, received Nov. 3, 1915.]

The duty on wheat imported into Spain has been fixed for the present at 2 pesetas per 100 kilos and the duty on wheat flour at 5 pesetas for 100 kilos (peseta, \$0.193; kilo, 2.2046 pounds). [Frequent changes have been made in the import duties levied on wheat and flour since the outbreak of the war, the amount of duty to be imposed being determined by the domestic price of these commodities, as stated in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 16, p. 91.]

ADDITIONS TO BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Telegram from American consulate general, London, Nov. 4, 1915.]

Additional articles, exportation of which to all destinations is prohibited, are the following: Aluminum and its alloys and manufactures thereof (formerly prohibited except to British possessions), cinchona bark, quinine and its salts, metal cylinders, such as those for compressed oxygen or hydrogen.

The list of articles, exportation of which is prohibited to all countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than France, Russia, except through Baltic ports, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, is extended as follows:

Arrowroot; creosote and creosote oils, including blast-furnace oil but not including wood-tar oil (which may be exported only to British possessions and protectorates); cloth of all kinds of wool or hair (except khaki woolen cloth, which is under absolute embargo). The former item from this list, "Herrings, cured or salted," etc., is replaced by the item "Fish of all kinds, whether cured, salted, or fresh."

From the list of goods which may be exported only to British possessions and protectorates the following items are deleted: Blast-furnace oil, except creosote and creosote oil; woolen and worsted cloth suitable for uniforms, not including women's dress stuffs or cloth with pattern.

GOVERNMENT BACKS AMERICAN FUR INDUSTRY.

The United States is the largest producer of raw sealskins in the world. It is also the largest consumer of finished seal furs. This would seem to make it natural that it should sell its own sealskins and dress and dye its own furs. It never has, however. We have in the past sent our raw sealskins to London. We have paid London for dressing and dyeing them, and we have brought them back, paying duty on them on their return and the incidental charges due to double transportation. This added 52 per cent to the price of the raw skins, so that the fur laid down in America, ready to be made up into garments, costs over one-half more than it did when it was purchased as a raw skin.

The Department of Commerce took the first step to end this two years ago, when the sale of the raw sealskins took place for the first time in this country. It was a success. Better prices were had than the foreign ones. The Government got more and it cost the Government less. Last year there was no sale because there was no market, and Congress authorized withholding the same. On October 21, 1915, a second sale of Government fur skins, this time fox skins, was made in this country with even greater success. There were buyers from many foreign lands, and the prices were higher than ever before obtained. Meanwhile the department has been planning to establish the best-known method of dyeing and dressing raw sealskins in this country in order that the whole process from beginning to end might be American. This it has now succeeded in doing.

Acting after advice of the Attorney General, the Department has made a contract for a limited term for the sale at auction to all buyers who may come of its production of sealskins. A consideration of this contract is that the best process of dyeing and dressing seal furs known to the trade shall be promptly established in this country. This is done at this time to prevent the deterioration of something like 8,000 skins which the Government has now in cold storage, but means the permanent establishment of the new industry in the United States. It is expected that it will return a greater profit to the Government on the sale of its skins while at the same time so reducing the expenses incidental to the dyeing and dressing that the finished fur will be sold at a lower cost to the American consumer than heretofore.

OLIVE CROP SHORTAGE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

[Consul William Dulany Hunter, Nice, Oct. 8.]

Careful inquiry shows that the outlook for next spring's olive crop in this district is unsatisfactory, conditions having remained the same as reported in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 30, 1915.

Prices for olive oil are high and, due to the unfavorable outlook for next spring's crop, have a tendency to increase.

Operations with the dog salmon in waters tributary to Hood Canal, Puget Sound, have been conducted by the United States Bureau of Fisheries at the Brinnon, Duckabush, and Quilcene stations, and with the improved facilities which have been provided at those stations it is expected that the collections of eggs of the dog salmon will be greater than heretofore.

TEAK IN SIAM AND INDO-CHINA.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has just published, in pamphlet form, an account of the teak-market situation in two of the countries of southeastern Asia. The detailed information contained in it was gathered by Commercial Agent Franklin H. Smith during the course of his investigations into the lumber markets of the Far East and Australasia.

Teak is one of the most valuable and interesting of woods. Teak logs when first cut will not float. It is strongly and characteristically scented, of oily texture, and the surface feels greasy to the touch. The oil is considered to resist the entrance of water into the wood and to prevent the wood becoming water-soaked after it has once been thoroughly seasoned. Teak darkens with age, and finally after a number of years becomes almost black.

The principal use of teak is in shipbuilding, especially for decking and as backing for armor plate. Its durability and lack of corrosive effect on steel make it particularly suitable for the latter purpose. Teak has been used to some extent for gun carriages, but is not now considered well adapted for that purpose, on account of its splitting too readily. In India it is used for all purposes in house and ship building, for bridges, railway sleepers, furniture, shingles, etc. It is also used for carving, the Burmese carved teak wood being especially noted.

Mr. Smith's booklet, entitled "Teak in Siam and Indo-China," is No. 108 in the Special Agents Series. It discusses the various grades and prices of the wood and the methods obtaining in the industry, and presents statistics of exports from both the countries visited. Five cents is the price of this publication, obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

RAILROAD RATES ACROSS ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

A memorandum has been issued by the Washington office of the Panama Canal, giving additional information as to rates for the transfer of freight across the Isthmus by the Panama Railroad. The statement, which is signed by Maj. F. C. Boggs, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, chief of office, is:

Referring to the memorandum issued by this office dated October 30, 1915, relative to rates for the transfer of freight across the Isthmus by the Panama Railroad, in which it was stated that the \$3 flat rate would be temporarily continued under the conditions then in effect, it is noted that these conditions are fully set forth in Panama Railroad Circular No. 167, dated October 20, 1915, the effective period of this circular having been extended by direction of the Secretary of War until further notice.

Under the terms of this circular steamers have the option of availing either of the \$3 flat rate or of the classified rates described in Circular No. 167, above mentioned. This circular was published in Canal Record No. 10, vol. 9, dated October 27, 1915, and copies of the circular may be obtained from the Panama Railroad Company, 24 State Street, New York, N. Y., to which company all inquiries regarding the above-mentioned rates or as to other questions relating to the transfer of cargo should be addressed; or, if desired, such inquiries may be addressed to the Governor of the Panama Canal, Balboa Heights, Canal Zone.

Certain dyestuffs in Canada have risen 1,500 per cent over the prewar value, says the Dominion Government Labor Gazette.

ACAPULCO LOSES PACIFIC MAIL AFTER HALF CENTURY.

[Consul Clement S. Edwards, Acapulco, Mexico, Oct. 4.]

The Pacific Mail Steamship Co. has discontinued its agency at Acapulco, and its vessels have ceased touching here, with the exception of an occasional visit for the purpose of bringing instructions to the agent who is engaged in disposing of the company's property.

For half a century Acapulco had been the chief port of call between San Francisco and Panama for the steamers of this company. All the vessels touched here, chiefly for the purpose of taking coal and water. Large supplies of coal were constantly maintained, and the company owned its own wells and operated its own water lighters. It also had an important agency here and owned considerable property, including the agency building, a water plant, a workshop, a large warehouse, water boat, two tugboats, a number of lighters, etc. The agency was one of the chief factors in the commercial life of the town and gave regular employment to a considerable number of men.

The wells and water boat have been purchased by the firm of Hudson & Billings, who will continue the business of supplying water to visiting vessels. Several local merchants have organized a company under the name of Compañía de Alijos de Acapulco, Sociedad Cooperativa, to engage in the lighterage business. The company has already purchased two lighters and is preparing to submit a proposition for the purchase of all the remaining property, including the tugboats and nine other lighters. It may include in the proposition the purchase of the agency building.

Several New Companies Venture into Field.

With the passing of the service here of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., several new companies are venturing into the field. Three of them have vessels making Acapulco and other ports along the west coast. Two are under American registry, and the other flies the British flag.

The Mexican National Trading Co., a California corporation, has two vessels (steam schooners, formerly in the lumber trade) under charter, and plying between San Francisco and Salina Cruz. These vessels are the *San Ramon*, net tonnage 592 and licensed to carry 60 passengers, and the *Fairhaven*, 457 net tonnage, with no passenger accommodations.

Another company, known as the South Sea Navigation Co., has under charter three steam schooners of about 500 net tonnage each. They are the *Fort Bragg*, *Coaster*, and the *O. M. Clark*. These vessels ply between San Francisco and Corinto, touching at all intermediate ports.

The Northern Navigations Co. is operating two vessels of its own, the *Citriana* and the *British Empire*, the latter plying between Mazatlan and Salina Cruz, and the former between San Francisco and Salina Cruz and way ports. These vessels fly the British flag, and are engaged principally as freighters.

Implement firms at Regina, Saskatchewan, have been very busy this fall. Harvesting and thrashing machinery has been in great demand.

PUGET SOUND LINE TO FRANCE PROPOSED.

A direct steamship line between Puget Sound and France is proposed by a French consular representative on the Pacific coast. He is holding frequent conferences with business men whom he has interested in the project through the branch office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in Seattle. In making his canvass of the territory he has been afforded special facilities by the Bureau, and his conclusion is that with proper shipping facilities, there would be an excellent market in France for the lumber and timber products of the Pacific Northwest.

Reports received by the Bureau from Seattle indicate that there are interest and enthusiasm throughout that district in favor of a great shipping boom. Men who are acting for responsible transportation companies have been in consultation with the Bureau's branch office, several going from Portland to Seattle for the purpose, and business men have been holding meetings with the object of advancing the interests of the port.

Extensive port improvements have already been made, and there is existing traffic from that district to the Orient. The city has been making an insistent demand, however, for more ships, and the West coast of South America and Central America receive special attention. Portland companies have informed the Bureau that a line covering that route could be maintained by handling lumber chiefly, and also carry Pacific coast products generally. A personal visit has been made by Mr. John Barrett, director of the Pan American Union, to encourage these efforts.

Seattle's interest in shipping during the present fall has already resulted in two publications, Terminal Facilities of the North Pacific Ports, and Pacific Exporters, while a periodical devoted to the same general subject is about to be issued.

Numerous letters have been received from business men by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, commending the efforts made through its branch office to develop the foreign commerce of this Pacific coast region.

INCREASED PRODUCTION OF STEEL IN GERMANY.

[Weekly Report of American Association of Commerce and Trade, Berlin, Oct. 9.]

Germany's steel production made a further increase during August amounting to 1,157,692 tons of 2,204.6 pounds against 1,138,651 tons in July, although in the latter month there was one additional workday. This is the largest output since the beginning of the war. [Figures of production since July, 1914, were given in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 11, 1915.] The average daily output in August was 44,527 tons, as compared with 42,172 tons in July. The quantities of the different grades produced in the last two months were:

Grade.	July, 1915.	August, 1915.	Grade.	July, 1915.	August, 1915.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Thomas	563,682	563,358	Steel castings	15,994	19,345
Bessemer	13,285	14,931	Crucible	8,555	8,720
Basic Siemens-Martin	455,778	468,047	Electro	12,046	12,643
Siemens-Martin	23,473	28,721			
Basic steel castings	45,888	41,927	Total	1,138,651	1,157,692

COTTON CONSUMPTION ON THE CONTINENT.

[Erwin W. Thompson, commercial attaché, The Hague, Netherlands, Oct. 4, 1915.]

Statistics of the amount of cotton consumed on the Continent during the war are not to be taken too literally. Changing currents of trade, with much unusual transshipment, make confusion, so that comparisons with the movements of previous years can not be made with certainty. The whole question is affected by the changing and unknown condition of stocks on hand just previous to and during the war, and by the fact that some countries are not now publishing the statistics of imports and exports.

Sources of Supply—Employment of Spindles.

Although Continental mills normally draw 20 to 30 per cent of their supply from non-American sources (India, Egypt, and elsewhere), political and physical difficulties have reduced that supply until it is nearly correct to base the present estimate of consumption except in the case of Russia, which produces about one-half of its own requirements, on the North American supply.

The number of consuming spindles is known with accuracy for each country, as well as the normal consumption per spindle; but at this time there are great abnormalities, due in some instances to scarcity of labor, in some to scarcity of raw material, and in some to both of these conditions combined, and all of these tend toward a reduced output. In other cases mills are beginning to spin coarser counts and some mills are running 20 hours per day instead of 10. Both of these conditions tend to increase the consumption of cotton per spindle. While the maximum efficiency of a mill is attained when spinning the counts of yarn for which it was originally designed, yet considerable latitude may be allowed. Under the stress of war orders, which mostly require coarse counts, many mills are changing from fine to coarse yarn, and while perhaps not working under the best conditions and producing the best quality of yarns, are still making a greater outturn. By running the preparatory machinery night and day and the spinning spindles on coarser counts than usual during the daytime only, it would be possible in many mills to double the consumption, so that instead of requiring about 100 pounds per spindle per year, they might be made to use 200 pounds. There is nothing certain about the resultant of these two opposite tendencies, for it is difficult to ascertain the facts in the belligerent countries. Thus an attempt to check up the net imports by the consumption must not be expected to yield accurate results.

Continental Cotton Mills and Consumption of Cotton.

The following table gives some estimates of the movement of cotton (bales of 500 pounds each) on the Continent for the past three years:

	Number of spinning spindles.	12 months ended June 30—		
		1913	1914	1915
		<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
Austria-Hungary.....	4,950,000			
Estimated consumption.....		837,000	912,000	300,000
United States exports.....		103,182	106,511	455
Belgium.....	1,500,000			
Estimated consumption.....		250,000	250,000	100,000
United States exports.....		226,967	227,474	6,067

	Number of spinning spindles.	12 months ended June 30—		
		1913	1914	1915
		<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
Denmark	93,500			
Estimated consumption.....		25,500	25,500	35,000
United States exports.....		125	104	37,000
France	7,400,000			
Estimated consumption.....		1,000,000	1,000,000	400,000
United States exports.....		1,071,786	1,136,074	692,699
Germany	11,718,000			
Estimated consumption.....		1,600,000	2,000,000	800,000
United States exports.....		2,443,629	2,884,102	294,143
Estimated actually received.....				1,500,000
Italy	4,600,000			
Estimated consumption.....		745,000	800,000	800,000
United States exports.....		500,823	537,357	1,127,400
Norway	75,000			
Estimated consumption.....		12,000	12,000	20,000
United States exports.....		2,986	3,756	58,000
Netherlands	578,000			
Estimated consumption.....		90,000	95,000	100,000
United States exports.....		14,537	35,053	510,000
Portugal	450,000			
Estimated consumption.....		75,000	75,000	75,000
United States exports.....		8,755	6,501	
Russia	9,292,500			
Estimated consumption.....		2,000,000	1,800,000	2,500,000
United States exports.....		74,908	99,076	82,125
Estimated domestic crop.....		950,000	1,000,000	900,000
(Districts, spindles, and estimated consumption)—				
Poland.....	1,322,200		350,000	100,000
Moscow.....	5,768,200		1,100,000	1,850,000
Petrograd.....	1,713,300		250,000	410,000
Finland.....	224,700		40,000	60,000
Baltic.....	166,600		35,000	50,000
Other districts.....	97,500		25,000	30,000
Spain	1,900,000			
Estimated consumption.....		300,000	350,000	400,000
United States exports.....		317,954	297,339	464,000
Sweden	500,000			
Estimated consumption.....		78,000	88,000	103,000
United States exports.....		42,813	51,671	746,000
Switzerland	1,400,000			
Estimated consumption.....		90,000	90,000	100,000
United States exports.....		77		
Total continental spindles	44,457,000			
Total continental estimated mill consumption		7,102,500	7,497,500	5,730,000
Total United States exports to continent		4,809,542	5,335,018	4,017,379
Other sources		2,203,958	2,112,482	1,712,621

Austrian and German Supplies—French and Russian Mills.

Austrian and German mills were able to operate on their accumulated stocks from the beginning of the war until January, 1915, at which time important quantities of cotton began to arrive from the United States. From January to April, 1915, about 200,000 bales were received in the port of Bremen, directly from the United States. In addition to these direct shipments, it is estimated that during the cotton season about 1,300,000 bales have reached Germany by indirect shipment through other ports.

Most of the French mills are in the occupied territory and these, as a whole, are said to be running at about 20 per cent capacity. The present consumption of all the French mills taken together is estimated at 40 per cent of normal. The imports, however, are more than 60 per cent of normal, so that the stocks of cotton must be accumulating or the surplus cotton is being used for military purposes.

A detailed statement of the Russian mills, by localities, as shown in the table, indicates that less than 20 per cent of the consuming capacity of Russian mills is in Poland, which is the only district now greatly affected by the war. It is reported that most of the mills in

the other districts are running double time, and that the consumption of all Russian mills taken together amounts to about 50 per cent more than normal.

Continental Mill Consumption of Cotton and Supplies.

The total continental mill consumption for 1914-15 is put at 5,730,000 bales of 500 pounds each, which is 1,767,500 bales less than the year before. Direct imports from the United States were 4,017,379 bales, which is 1,367,639 bales less than the previous year. Cotton derived from other sources than direct importation from the United States is 1,712,621 bales in 1914-15, against 2,112,482 in the previous year. Deducting the Russian crop of 900,000 bales, there remains 812,621 bales in 1914-15 derived from still other sources. Very little cotton could be received from Egypt or India, so this difference must be largely made up from the depletion of stocks. These calculations and estimates leave out of account the unknown factor of cotton used for gunpowder and other explosives.

LAWS OF STATES ON SCHOOLHOUSE SANITATION.

Forty States of the Union have taken some legal action toward safeguarding the sanitation of public-school buildings, according to a bulletin on "Schoolhouse sanitation," just issued by the Bureau of Education of the United States Department of the Interior. "Probably nine-tenths of the existing regulation of this sort has come within the past decade," declares the bulletin. "Each State profits by the experience of 47 others. A law passed in one extreme of the country to-day is copied next month or next year by a State 2,000 or 3,000 miles distant."

Thirty-eight States have some legal provision regarding the school site, according to the bulletin. Nearly all of these provisions are State wide in their application and are mandatory in character. These provisions include the proximity of "nuisances," availability of the site, and size of the site. Nineteen States have laws prohibiting the location of school buildings within a specified distance from places where liquor is sold, from gambling houses, houses of prostitution, and noisy or smoky factories.

Thirty of the States have sought to regulate the water supply of the public school. "The revolt against the common drinking cup," says the bulletin, "has come within the past five years. Kansas was the pioneer, but other States followed rapidly, so that now half of the entire number have either a law or a regulation regarding drinking cups."

Some form of protection against fire and panic is found in 36 States. Blanket regulations, or the power to make such regulations, exist in 12 States. General or special construction with a view to fire prevention is dealt with in 10 States. Less than half the States, according to the bulletin, have any legal word on ventilation. In the matter of cleaning and disinfecting, slightly more than one-fourth of the States have regulations which control conditions to any degree outside the districts themselves. Some of the laws and regulations are almost model; others are wholly inadequate. A few State boards of health have done notable work in this particular. Special cleaning and disinfecting follow in seven States immediately upon discovery in any school of any of a certain class of diseases.

OFFICIALS SEIZE IMITATIONS OF WELL-KNOWN PREPARATIONS.

Several shipments of worthless imitation drug products have been seized by the officials in charge of the enforcement of the Foods and Drugs Act. Itinerant peddlers are selling to drug stores large quantities of preparations made up and labeled in imitation of high-priced patent medicines of foreign origin. Only small quantities of the genuine medicines have been imported since the war began, causing a great increase in prices. Unscrupulous manufacturers are attempting to reap a harvest by substituting for the genuine medicines cheap chemicals with no medicinal value whatever. In order to make it difficult to trace these preparations to the parties responsible for their manufacture they are not usually distributed through the regular channels of commerce, but are peddled about to drug stores by itinerants, who make immediate delivery at the time of sale.

A preparation put up in imitation of "neosalvarsan," a medicine which has largely displaced the preparation known as 606 in the treatment of syphilis, is being distributed to drug stores in this manner. A sample labeled "Neosalvarsan," which was recently examined by the department, was found to be nothing more than salt colored with a coal-tar dye, none of the genuine neosalvarsan whatever being present. The label on this product was an exact reproduction of the genuine imported neosalvarsan, or it was an original container refilled with the imitation article.

Fraud Held to be Particularly Flagrant.

This fraud is held to be particularly flagrant, according to the medical experts of the department, not alone because a worthless preparation is sold for a high price, but mainly because neosalvarsan is usually administered by injection directly into the blood of the syphilitic patient. The cheap substitute is not only worthless in the treatment of this disease, but when injected directly into the blood might work considerable injury.

Other preparations which are peddled to druggists and purport to be acetylsalicylic acid, commonly known as aspirin, a medicine of foreign origin regularly prescribed by many physicians for certain ailments, have been seized by the officials in charge of the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act, because an analysis showed that the products were worthless imitations.

Owing to the manner in which these preparations are peddled about, it is difficult to trace the interstate shipment of any of them, and in cases where there has been no interstate shipment, the Federal Food and Drugs Act has no jurisdiction. On information furnished by the Federal authorities, some of these imitation goods have been seized by city officials who had authority under State laws to proceed when there had been no interstate shipment.

A revival in hemp growing is reported from Kentucky. This year's crop is estimated at 8,000,000 pounds, against 1,600,000 last year and 6,500,000 in 1909. Wisconsin also increased its acreage. New machinery invented for harvesting and spreading the straw has proved successful.

POISONS USED IN THE RUBBER INDUSTRY.

Rubber manufacture involves the use of numerous poisonous substances, of which lead salts, antimony pentasulphide, aniline oil, carbon disulphide, and carbon tetrachloride are the most dangerous. The operations involving exposure to these poisons, however, employ but a small proportion of the large number of workers. No women and very few boys are engaged in such operations. A lesser danger is found in the use of coal-tar benzol and of various petroleum products, such as naphtha, benzine, etc. A considerable number of the workers, including women and boys, are exposed to the fumes of these compounds. These facts are brought out in an investigation by Dr. Alice Hamilton, of the industrial poisons used in the rubber industry, the results of which have just been published as Bulletin 179 of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

While it was impossible to get complete data as to the frequency of industrial poisoning in the rubber industry, records were secured of no less than 66 cases of lead poisoning which occurred in 1914 among the rubber workers in the United States. Cases were also found of naphtha poisoning, and of poisoning from carbon disulphide, carbon tetrachloride, and aniline oil.

The dangerous nature of some of the compounds used in the rubber industry is not as yet commonly known, so that cases of industrial poisoning may occur without being recognized as such and ascribed to their true cause. Also, in the case of some of the compounds, the symptoms of poisoning may be obscure or may not develop until some time after the exposure has taken place, so that again the resulting harm may not be ascribed to its true cause.

The investigation on which the bureau's report is based covered 35 rubber factories; located in 15 cities or towns in 9 States. Practically every branch of the rubber industry was included among the activities of these factories. As there are many trade secrets in the manufacture of rubber articles, it was impossible to make the investigation as complete as was desired.

It is possible to equip and manage a rubber factory so that exposure to the various industrial poisons will be reduced to an insignificant minimum or wholly eliminated. Relatively little, however, seems to have been done in this direction.

PEANUT ROASTERS FOR BRAZIL.

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, Oct. 2.]

This consulate has been requested to obtain catalogues and export prices of peanut roasters for street use. It is possible that a demand for this article can be created. Boiled peanuts are sold in large quantities by boys in the streets. It is possible that the roasted peanut will be preferred after this mode of preparation is known to the people.

Firms interested in exporting this article should give full details as to prices, description, and terms. Language desired, Portuguese.

A Bermuda firm has placed an order for picture molding in the United States, as the result of information supplied by Consul Carl R. Loop, of Hamilton.

SPANISH ORANGE CROP BACKWARD.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Valencia, Oct. 15.]

The rains ordinarily expected in September and early October did not materialize in the Valencia orange district; hence the fruit has not developed as well as had been hoped and the proportion of large sizes will probably be lower than was anticipated a month ago. The weather has also been warmer than usual at this time of year. At this writing cool nights are looked for to impart color to oranges, but in this respect also hopes have been disappointed. On the whole the crop is somewhat backward.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Oct. 12.]

Orange Crop Prospects in Andalusia.

The general outlook for the orange crop in Spain, especially in the region covered by the Seville consular district, has changed considerably since previous reports from that office.

The region covered by that district comprises the Provinces of Seville, Cordoba, Cadiz, Badajoz, Huelva, and Caceres, all of which provinces produce oranges to a certain extent, though Seville is practically the only province which exports in large quantities. The oranges produced here are usually of the sour variety, the exports going generally to England for the production of marmalade, the Seville sour oranges being especially suitable for preserving.

At the beginning of September growers reported that conditions were normal, the trees had been benefited by the heavy rains of the preceding winter and a medium crop was expected, as the trees had flowered satisfactorily. The fruit, however, does not seem to have grown satisfactorily, owing to excessive heat during the summer months and the lack of usual autumn rains, and experts now state that it is evident that the crop this season will not nearly equal that of last year in quantity, as there is a partial failure in some districts and, generally, the trees are not so well loaded with fruit as last year.

The demand from the United Kingdom is large and growers are asking 2 reales (at present rate of exchange, 9.4 cents United States currency) more per hundred oranges than in June and July, 1915, which represents an additional cost of about 2.25 pesetas (42.3 cents) per half chest.

At the beginning of August quotations were approximately 9 pesetas (at exchange of that date, equal to \$1.68) per half chest; they rose continually until at the beginning of October they stood at 11 pesetas (\$2.07) and are at present quoted at 12 pesetas (\$2.26), and in the opinion of one of the largest exporters "the whole production may be said to have been sold, although there are always a few small lots unsold. As these form only a small fraction of the crop they need not be considered."

Oranges in Seville are packed in cases containing approximately 480. The crop is picked during the latter part of November and December, the first shipments being usually made the first week in the latter month.

The present year's crop will be sound in quality, so it is stated, but will probably not be more than half the quantity of the 1914-15 season. No statistics are available of the actual production.

HIGH FREIGHTS ADVANCE COAL PRICES IN NORWAY.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Oct. 18.]

Although the coal consumption of the Stavanger district has not changed materially since the war began, general business has never before reached such proportions as at present, and the price of coal has advanced along with those of other commodities. The bulk of the coal used here is English steamer coal, and the price of the best Newcastle steamer coal is now 42 crowns (\$11.26 in U. S. currency) per ton. Before the war the consumer paid only 20 crowns (\$5.36) per ton. House coal, which comes generally from the Firth of Forth, Scotland, costs about one quarter less than steamer, and has advanced in about the same proportion. The rise is due mainly to the freight, which has advanced since July, 1914, from \$1.10 per ton to \$3.65.

Coal delivered f. o. b. in England has, however, also advanced in cost. Before the war the best Newcastle ranged from about \$3 to \$3.41. Now it is quoted f. o. b. Blyth at \$4.75. Nearly all the coal used here is "D. C. B." coal (Davison, Cowpen, and Bothal)—the standard kinds from Newcastle and Blyth. Best Newcastle smalls, f. o. b. Blyth, is now quoted at \$2.92.

License Required—Inquiries About American Coal.

Some uncertainty is felt here in certain quarters regarding the coal situation. Great Britain now requires a special license for every cargo of coal shipped to Stavanger. It may be said, however, that larger stocks of coal have been laid in this year than usual because of unsettled conditions.

Inquiries have been made at the consulate regarding the possibility of getting American coal, and considerable interest was shown at first. The interest subsided, however, when prices received from America ranged about \$4.80 higher than English prices, c. i. f. No coal has been ordered from America.

There are no electric cranes here to aid in unloading coal to the private docks, although one was recently ordered from Christiania for the public quay. Perhaps 200 tons per day can be unloaded with the present facilities.

Coal and coke imported to Stavanger during 1914 amounted to 89,613 metric tons from England and 5 metric tons from Germany, a total of 89,618 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.62 pounds).

[Lists of dealers in coal in the Stavanger district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68301.]

The Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission has completed a survey for a Government power house on the Smeaton farm, between Queenston Heights and Niagara Falls. Plans for the power station have been in preparation. The use of surplus waters from the Welland Canal is projected, carrying the water to the generating station through a canal running from Chippawa Creek. Extended articles on this Canadian plant were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 1 and September 21, 1915.

Lumbermen in Ontario and Quebec are receiving many United States inquiries for birch and spruce.

NEW LABOR LAW OF PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 1.]

A 10-hour day (of which two hours are reserved for meals) in mercantile establishments and barber shops; 7 hours in banks and business offices; 10 hours in the industries, except (1) in shops or works under the immediate supervision of the State or of administrative corporations, (2) in underground work of the mining industries, and (3) in establishments and shops where, for industrial purposes, insalubrious or poisonous materials are made or used, in which cases 8 hours constitute the working day; 10 hours in the home industries; special regulations regarding the hours and employment of women and minors; these are among the provisions of the new labor law of Portugal. Other sections provide for inspection of premises, limit the amount of night work and of overtime, specify the rate of pay for overtime, and touch upon the legality of labor contracts in force at the date of the promulgation of the law.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in the adjustment of business affairs to the altered conditions, but the general opinion seems to be that the results will be satisfactory.

[A copy of the full text of the law will be loaned to those interested by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington; refer to file No. 66213.]

MOTION PICTURES IN COLOMBIA.

[Consular Agent Harold B. Meyerheim, Medellin, Aug. 16; see also *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 6 and July 3, 1915.]

Medellin's 60,000 population has, in the past, supported three motion-picture theaters—the Circo Espana, the Circo Apolo, and the Circo Olimpia. The last named is the only cinematograph showing high-grade photoplays, it having a contract for Italian films. However, owing to the war, this theater has now suspended its entertainments, and the other two are giving mixed programs, combining varieties with films, three times a week and charging 10 to 25 cents admission.

American films have not so far proved a success. The local audiences are very exciting and require good acting, high-grade comedy, or tragic and exciting dramas. As the "floating population" is very small, programs are changed constantly; only the most successful films can be shown more than once. The Spanish language is used exclusively for explanations.

A local company controls the supply of electric current and has a fixed charge for theater lighting. The current is alternating, but direct current can be had if required.

WATERWORKS PROPOSAL BY AMERICAN FIRM.

[Consul Herman L. Spahr, Montevideo, Uruguay, Sept. 20.]

Officers of an American contracting company are at Salto, Uruguay, a city of about 30,000 inhabitants, making the necessary investigations in order to submit a proposal for putting in a waterworks system with intake from the Uruguay River at Salto Chico. Plans that were prepared in part in 1910 for the same purpose are, it is understood, being made the basis of the present survey.

MODERN METHODS OF BANK OF CHINA.

[Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, Peking.]

The adoption of modern methods by Chinese banks is of very recent date, but so rapid has been the progress of the leading native exponent of Western methods—the Bank of China—that its Shanghai branch is said to be second only to the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank in that city. The Bank of China, whose capital of \$10,000,000 Mexican (about \$5,000,000 United States gold) was subscribed by the Chinese Government, is under the control of four directors appointed by the Central Government, but in reality is managed by the governor. In Peking there are two departments—the head offices for the whole of China and the Peking branch; in all, there are 92 branches and subbranches.

The bank allows 2 per cent a year on current accounts in Peking, but this rate varies in the different branches, depending on local conditions, as much as $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent being allowed in some places. Its usual rate on what, in foreign practice, would be known as commercial overdrafts is 8 to 9 per cent, but most of the commercial loan business is done on a little different basis, the loan being made in each individual case upon a rate and security suitable to that particular case. The bank has adopted modern Western methods of keeping its books, using Arabic figures exclusively, and all writing in connection with keeping the accounts, etc., is done with foreign writing implements. This practice obtains throughout the branches.

Most of the small dealers in Peking do their banking business with the "old-style" banks, with which they have had connections for many years. They make their deposits in these banks, receiving interest (two-tenths of 1 per cent a month) on current accounts, and also receiving loans from time to time to aid them in their business. For small short-time loans from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent a month interest is exacted. Loans at these rates are also made to farmers with the coming year's crops as security, but as a rule loans at these high rates are not accompanied by what would be considered good security, so that much risk is involved in connection with them. The old-style banks still make use of a brush in entering the accounts, which are kept in Chinese fashion.

SICILIAN LEMON CROP OF 1915.

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Italy, Oct. 12.]

There are two crops of lemons yearly gathered in Sicily, the winter and summer crop, the latter known as "verdelli." The winter crop, gathered from December to May, was a medium one this year and the quality was good. The verdelli crop was also good and above the normal in quantity.

Lemons shipped to the United States from January 1 to October 1, 1914, totaled 2,086,004 boxes (300 lemons to the box), while up to October 1, 1915, the amount was only 1,387,547 boxes.

Production has constantly been greater than the consumption, and consequently prices have not kept up. Prices in September ranged from 9 to 12 lire (at the depreciated rate prevailing about \$1.50 to \$2) per thousand, while in September, 1914, the price was \$3 to \$3.50.

The good weather which prevailed during the late summer and early autumn makes the prospects for the next lemon crop good both as to quality and quantity.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Motors for rowboats, No. 19159.—An American consular officer in India transmits the name of a firm in his district which desires to receive quotations on rowboat motors and terms of sole agency.

Medical supplies, No. 19160.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that one of the county councils in his district desires to communicate with American firms dealing in medical supplies. Catalogues, price lists, and terms of delivery should be sent.

Wearing apparel, No. 19161.—A business firm in the United States writes that its agent in Central America is in the market for general lines of gloves, stockings, novelties, and wearing apparel for women. The man will pay cash.

Paper, No. 19162.—A firm in France desires to communicate with American manufacturers of newspaper, 47/48 grams to the square meter; wrapping paper, including cellulose, parchmented, brown, or in colors; muslin paper, unbleached, white, or in colors; and genuine sulphurized papers. Samples and quotations, f. o. b. or c. i. f. destination, are desired immediately. Correspondence should be in French.

Caustic soda, etc., No. 19163.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that there is an inquiry for quotations on caustic soda and other articles needed in the soap industry, such as potash, lye, soda ash, and ammonia alkali. References furnished. Terms cash. Correspondence may be in English.

Enamel ware, underwear, etc., No. 19164.—The bureau is informed that an Australian representative is in this country for the purpose of establishing commercial relations with American exporters of enamel ware, underwear, hosiery, and dress materials for women. Further particulars may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Bathroom equipment, No. 19165.—An American consular officer in China submits a list of commission houses interested in bathroom equipment. Names may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Carpets and oilcloth, No. 19166.—The Department of Commerce is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Greece stating that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of carpets and oilcloth of all kinds for delivery f. o. b. factory or c. i. f. Piraeus. Catalogues and full information should be sent.

Crackers, No. 19167.—A consular officer in China reports that there is a possible market for Christmas crackers in his district.

Sewing machines, umbrella handles, etc., No. 19168.—A report from an American consular officer in the Netherlands states that a company desires to purchase sewing machines, umbrella handles, and fly catchers, and would also like to act as agent for American manufacturers of jackets and similar goods. Terms 30 or 60 days, with 2 per cent, when buying or acting as agents. Correspondence may be in English, German, or French.

Wire, No. 19169.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom transmits the names and addresses of firms in his district which deal in coil wire.

Drugs and pharmaceutical products, No. 19170.—An importer in Switzerland informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent, on a commission basis, firms dealing in drugs and pharmaceutical products, making payments "for goods sold" at the end of each month, and later on, to purchase outright. Samples and prices c. i. f. French port are requested. References given. Correspondence may be in English.

Dry batteries, No. 19171.—An American consular officer in Norway reports that a firm in his district wishes to correspond with exporters and dealers in dry batteries for electric pocket lamps.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Concrete pavement, No. 2763.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 4, 1915, for concrete pavement at the Navy Aeronautic Station, Pensacola, Fla. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the naval station named.

Dental cabinet, No. 2764.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until November 11, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at warehouse "D," Fort Mason, pressed steel aseptic dental cabinet.

Construction work, No. 2765.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and at the naval station, Cavite, P. I., until January 4, 1916, for a power house and an operating building of reinforced concrete and steel construction; and three quarters of wood construction for commanding officer, married operators, and bachelor operators at the naval station, Cavite, P. I. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the naval station named.

Dredging, No. 2766.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1915, for dredging at the Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Construction work, No. 2767.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., for the construction complete, including mechanical equipment and approaches, of the United States post office at Greenwich, Conn. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the Washington office or to the custodian of the site at Greenwich.

Construction work, No. 2768.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1915, for the construction of an extension to the pulping and poaching house at the Naval Proving Grounds, Indianhead, Md. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Lumber, No. 2769.—Sealed proposals for furnishing and delivering at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., about 110,000 feet b. m. of white oak timber will be received at the United States Engineer's Office, 337 Federal Building, Detroit, Mich., until December 15, 1915. Information on application.

X-ray plates, No. 2770.—Sealed proposals will be received until November 12, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the Medical Supply Depot, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., 646 dozen X-ray plates of various sizes.

Field guns, gun carriages, etc., No. 2771.—Sealed proposals will be received until November 25, 1915, at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. contractor's works the following articles: Field guns, gun carriages, and gun-carriage limbers. Drawings, records, specifications, and other information may be seen in the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, and copies thereof can be made at the expense of the bidder, provided that they are not removed from the city of Washington and are returned within 24 hours.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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SWISS FEDERAL PURCHASING TRUST.

The Department of State has been informed by the Swiss Legation in Washington that while the Swiss Society of Surveillance has been agreed upon by the allies, as stated in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for November 2, 1915, the organization of the society has not yet been completed, and therefore until further notice shipments to Switzerland should be made as heretofore. Commercial interests will be informed through **COMMERCE REPORTS** as soon as the organization of the society is completed and ready to receive consignments.

EMBARGO ON KID SKINS IN FRENCH COLONIES.

[Telegram from American Consul General, Paris, Nov. 4, 1915.]

A ministerial decree of November 3, 1915, abrogates the permission granted April 23, 1915, for the exportation of kid skins, raw and prepared, from French colonies to allied countries and to the United States. Tunis and Morocco were not included in the list of colonies from which exportation was prohibited by the order of April 23.

BRITISH NOTICE CONCERNING WHEAT CARGOES.

[Cablegram from American Consulate General, London.]

The British Government Board of Trade announces that vessels loading by December 15, 1915, with wheat from an American Atlantic port shall be exempt from requisition on arrival in a United Kingdom port and free to start another voyage not necessarily North Atlantic after discharge cargo.

An apparently steady South African trade in American glass has resulted from a "Trade Opportunity" forwarded by Consul E. A. Wakefield, of Port Elizabeth.

NEW LINES BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Tampico, Mexico, Oct. 22.]

Steamer Service for Tampico and Beaumont.

The Gulf Export and Transportation Co. has established a regular freight and passenger service between Beaumont, Tex., and Tampico, Mexico. The company has purchased the steamship *Pilot*, formerly the United States revenue cutter *Alexander Hamilton*, and renamed it *Keechi*, together with three seagoing barges, which will be towed by the *Keechi*. The company has fitted the steamer up with accommodations to carry about 20 passengers and plans to maintain a 10-day schedule between Tampico and Beaumont. The *Keechi* has cargo space for 200 tons and the barges 600 tons each.

The principal freight from the United States to Mexico will be lumber and general cargo. Owing to the quick service, there will be little difficulty in getting a return cargo for the United States. In order to avoid unnecessary delays the steamer will tow one barge at a time, while the two others are at their destinations being loaded and discharged.

[Consul Claude E. Guyant, Ensenada, Mexico, Oct. 26.]

San Diego-Ensenada Company Formed in California.

A new company, known as the San Diego-Ensenada Steamship Co., is being incorporated in California for the purpose of engaging in freight and passenger traffic between San Diego, Cal., and the Pacific ports of Lower California. The new company is financed by residents of San Diego and Ensenada, and will have a capitalization of \$25,000, partially paid up. It is the intention of the company to purchase at once, at some Pacific port, a vessel of between 100 and 200 tons, and to acquire other boats in the future, if traffic warrants.

Regular steamer service between Ensenada and San Diego ceased with the sinking of the Mexican steamer *Victoria*, off San Diego last spring. Since that time this coast has been served by irregular voyages of a 14-ton gasoline schooner, which has been charging \$7.50 for passage and \$5 per ton for freight between Ensenada and San Diego, a distance of 70 miles. The new line will probably charge \$5 for passengers and \$3 a ton for freight, and will make a voyage every 5 days.

Light passenger and freight traffic prevailed all summer. South-bound cargoes have averaged about 60 tons per month, and north-bound only about 10 tons. About 40 passengers each way have been carried per month. This town and district, however, are only awaiting better conditions to become very active in industry and commerce, especially in mining and ranching, and it is with a view to being prepared to handle the inevitable increase in traffic that this new steamship line is being organized.

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

Consul Lester Maynard, of Amoy, China, states that he will be in the United States on leave of absence until about December 31, 1915, and that his address will be care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

The leave of absence of Consul Willys R. Peck, of Tsingtau, China, having been extended he will be in Washington, D. C., from about December 1, 1915, to January 31, 1916.

CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Oct. 4; data taken from Bulletin of Alexandria General Produce Association for September, 1915.]

Lower Egypt.—Weather conditions generally favorable during the first half of the month, latter cooler; the fogs usually prevalent during this period were absent this year. Boll worm and pink boll worm ravages quite considerable, some parts more affected than others. First picking, everywhere under way, is 15 days in advance of usual time. Results are variable. Some districts show slightly better yields than last year, while others are inferior. Second picking will be below the average, and indications point to a minimum third-picking yield. Gin returns vary and, on the whole, appear inferior to last season.

Upper Egypt and Fyoun.—Weather, with the exception of two or three days, was rather cool, but generally favorable. Light fogs of no importance were evident at the beginning of the month. With the exception of the parasite attacks indicated last month no further boll or pink boll worm were in evidence.

COTTON GINNED, IMPORTED, AND EXPORTED.

According to a preliminary report issued by the United States Bureau of Census, the number of bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1915 prior to November 1, 1915, was 7,384,871 (counting round as half bales), compared with 9,826,912 bales for the corresponding period in 1914, and 8,830,396 bales in 1913. Round bales in 1915 amounted to 69,204 against 23,182 in 1914 and 61,577 in 1913. The number of sea-island bales included is 55,358 for 1915, 43,115 for 1914, and 42,804 for 1913. The distribution of the sea-island cotton for 1915, by States, is Florida, 17,841; Georgia, 36,141; and South Carolina, 1,376.

The statistics for 1915 are subject to slight corrections when checked against the individual returns of the ginners being transmitted by mail. The corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to October 18 are 5,710,824 bales.

Domestic cotton exported during October, 1915, was 673,059 running bales, and foreign cotton imported, 13,506 equivalent 500-pound bales.

RESULTS OF FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITY SERVICE.

[Commercial Agent George W. Doonan, St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 3.]

Mr. George W. Doonan, Commercial Agent, who is in charge of the Bureau's branch office in St. Louis, reports that he is in receipt of advice from a manufacturer of railway supplies in that city to the effect that the manufacturer has secured orders in South America for railroad lamps, lenses, benders, and tinware from four different firms. The information relative to the openings was secured through "Foreign Trade Opportunities" and lists of dealers supplied by the St. Louis office. The manufacturer states that these are all initial orders, and it is expected that they will lead to a very nice export business.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY COUNTRIES.

Details showing the value of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during September and the 9 months ended with September, 1915, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, as follows:

	Month of September—		9 months ended September—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand Divisions:				
Europe.....	\$56,259,291	\$40,931,873	\$521,406,314	\$392,321,420
North America.....	41,439,422	40,824,653	350,920,154	395,222,154
South America.....	15,858,234	30,052,765	173,306,274	229,501,940
Asia.....	19,483,699	31,608,384	210,190,975	215,531,852
Oceania.....	5,960,018	5,912,179	38,307,864	44,676,160
Africa.....	889,947	2,011,172	15,940,293	24,952,760
Total.....	189,710,611	151,236,026	1,410,071,874	1,302,094,786
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....	119,640	130,391	12,921,797	4,670,559
Belgium.....	919,616	129,587	29,104,309	1,901,021
France.....	5,817,573	6,219,797	63,127,345	53,814,054
Germany.....	2,732,302	1,389,840	122,620,200	36,709,263
Italy.....	3,658,164	3,780,910	40,645,629	36,277,044
Netherlands.....	5,134,883	2,694,225	29,553,108	19,966,185
Norway.....	1,391,708	702,175	8,076,537	5,519,738
Russia in Europe.....	137,925	718,133	12,234,127	1,630,506
Sweden.....	9,664,044	9,000,787	9,007,302	8,405,566
United Kingdom.....	32,040,275	19,835,850	226,749,071	181,578,698
Canada.....	15,689,974	17,171,608	121,280,059	118,531,688
Mexico.....	5,312,092	7,958,043	66,833,280	66,804,494
Cuba.....	16,488,444	12,615,339	126,122,506	168,791,364
Argentina.....	3,418,245	7,641,571	44,169,917	68,894,940
Brazil.....	5,553,882	10,873,247	68,187,294	77,430,555
China.....	2,763,586	5,588,860	28,229,456	37,909,381
India, British.....	2,863,712	4,832,807	55,657,726	47,567,570
Japan.....	10,833,461	11,031,478	79,371,114	73,784,444
Australia.....	1,349,062	635,036	16,620,622	22,631,959
EXPORTS TO—				
Grand Divisions—				
Europe.....	89,977,679	211,218,393	873,899,459	1,845,911,868
North America.....	41,030,645	50,865,438	374,243,153	286,902,637
South America.....	8,288,881	16,938,717	73,692,547	108,534,615
Asia.....	7,034,204	9,952,200	68,846,112	100,194,410
Oceania.....	7,474,219	8,634,981	57,410,420	70,640,476
Africa.....	2,245,505	3,067,093	19,310,296	25,400,961
Total.....	156,052,333	300,676,822	1,467,401,969	2,532,485,167
Principal countries—				
Austria-Hungary.....		60,167	12,798,495	103,501
Belgium.....	747,480	2,325,355	33,444,275	16,382,690
France.....	19,008,510	35,822,785	94,616,314	389,230,908
Germany.....	2,378	96,797	156,041,307	11,785,307
Italy.....	4,322,029	33,572,356	43,618,282	183,723,804
Netherlands.....	7,574,457	8,036,368	77,246,860	116,738,635
Norway.....	2,981,711	4,701,311	8,682,570	32,541,379
Russia in Europe.....	207,543	14,694,382	17,181,627	73,354,467
Sweden.....	1,688,597	4,759,061	9,673,809	66,462,650
United Kingdom.....	42,742,895	95,758,600	374,282,472	849,849,145
Canada.....	25,211,880	31,903,186	245,170,577	241,096,092
Mexico.....	2,639,187	3,641,115	24,676,468	28,830,132
Cuba.....	6,599,095	8,036,795	49,514,184	62,532,776
Argentina.....	3,054,086	6,808,598	22,703,667	87,958,466
Brazil.....	2,817,398	4,869,565	18,790,620	25,947,028
China.....	1,426,230	1,897,406	17,371,383	15,539,923
India, British.....	553,921	1,706,427	6,957,380	11,385,885
Japan.....	3,491,396	3,333,201	27,316,941	82,010,808
Australia.....	4,428,681	6,836,090	32,687,303	40,027,088

EXPORTS FROM CHAMPAGNE DISTRICT.

[Consul W. Bardel, Epernay, France, Oct. 18.]

A comparative statement of the merchandise declared for shipment to the United States from the Epernay (Reims) consular district during the first nine months of the last two years appears below:

Articles.	First 9 months—		Articles.	First 9 months—	
	1914	1915		1914	1915
Antimony oxide	\$96,396	.....	Skins, rabbit	\$1,128	.....
Chloride of lime	8,651	.....	Silk stockings	1,814	\$3,170
Cotton, manufactures of:			Tin, manufactures of	20,040	.....
Cloth, colored	55,850	.....	Willows:		
Embroideries	14,355	\$404	Manufactures of	24,301	4,297
Stockings	36,221	1,182	Osiers	15,396	.....
Underwear	29,994	29,815	Wool, manufactures of:		
Crockery	3,001	2,209	Stockings	1,013	699
Flowers, artificial	7,015	1,073	Underwear	9,194	6,596
Fruits, preserved	4,323	146	Wine, champagne	1,394,244	1,385,033
Grass:			All other	27,248	7,843
Manufactures of	30,961	9,773			
Plate	1,010	.....	Total to United		
Gloves, kid	298,135	319,862	States	2,129,237	1,774,978
Machinery:			Exports to Porto Rico	3,539	236
Sugar-making	14,046	573	Exports to Hawaii	1,969	.....
Other	7,504	787	Exports to Philippine		
Mineral water	6,693	.....	Islands	2,413	1,619
Musical instruments	3,369	1,530			
Rubber substitute	17,183	.....	Grand total	2,137,130	1,776,833
Seeds, vegetable	1,072	.....		

HUDDERSFIELD TO HAVE GREAT DYE WORKS.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Oct. 15.]

After carefully considering a number of locations the directors of British Dyes (Ltd.) have decided to establish their works for the production of synthetic dyes at Huddersfield. The purpose of this company is to manufacture dyes on such an extensive scale as to make the dye users of this country independent of foreign supplies. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 7 and Feb. 18, 1915.] The site selected is a 450-acre tract in the valley of the Colne River adjacent to the works (formerly belonging to Read Holliday & Sons) taken over by British Dyes a few months ago.

It is estimated now that the new works will eventually employ 10,000 adults, which means an added population to the city of probably 35,000 people. The great problem for the municipality will be to house so large a number of people. The borough council, the chamber of commerce, and prominent citizens have this matter seriously under consideration at the present time.

DECREASED LEEDS EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, Oct. 18.]

The declared exports to the United States through the Leeds consulate for the quarter ended September 30, 1915, amounted to \$218,440, as compared with \$565,941 for the corresponding quarter of 1914. The total exports for the 9 months ended September 30, 1915, were \$611,289, as compared with \$1,788,350 in 1914. The decrease may be held to be due to conditions which are a direct result of the war.

PLANS OF GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

The Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, announces that the seventh biennial session of the Graduate School of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations will be held at the Massachusetts Agricultural College July 3 to 28, 1916. Three courses to receive special attention are: (1) Factors of growth of plants and animals; (2) fundamental problems of intensive agriculture, including agronomy, horticulture, and dairy husbandry; (3) agricultural economic and rural sociology. The last-mentioned course is to be especially emphasized. In addition to the courses given in the graduate school are others given in the regular summer school conducted by the college.

Previous sessions of the graduate school were held in Ohio State University in 1902; University of Illinois, 1906; Cornell University, 1908; Iowa State College, 1910; Michigan Agricultural College, 1912; and University of Missouri, 1914.

The school is in session for four weeks. During that time courses are given on various phases of advanced agricultural science, agricultural economics, and rural sociology. Each course consists of 20 lectures and 20 seminars and is usually divided into four distinct parts given in the four different weeks of the school and each by a specialist in his subject. Many prominent and learned men have been members of the faculties—Zuntz, Hall, Von Tscharmak, Ewart, Russell, Marshall, and Darbishire, from European countries. Mendel, McDougal, Castle, Duggar, Riddle, Sherman, Carver, East, and Harris, from institutions not primarily agricultural in purpose, have been included also. In addition to these nearly all of the men in agricultural colleges in the United States known as specialists on various phases of agricultural work have taken part.

WORK ON LIGHTHOUSE BUREAU'S NEW VESSELS.

Four light vessels and six tenders for the work of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses were under construction or projected during the month of October. The report on the status of the new vessels, made November 4, gave the various stages of completion reached on these craft. The tender *Fern* has been accepted from the contractors and final payment made.

The tender *Rose*, being built at Seattle, Wash., is about 65 per cent completed, and Light Vessels *No. 101* and *No. 102*, at Wilmington, Del., are, respectively, 45 and 47 per cent completed. The tender *Cedar* at Long Beach, Cal., has reached the 10 per cent stage, and the tender *Palmetto*, at Jacksonville, Fla., 1 per cent.

For Light Vessel *No. 99*, relief boat on the Great Lakes, the balance of the appropriation, about \$58,000, is available, and plans are being prepared. For Light Vessel *No. 100*, an appropriation of \$130,000 is available, and a preliminary study has been made.

In providing a tender for the engineer of the sixth district, the balance of the appropriation, about \$26,881, is to be used for the purchase of a suitable vessel to replace the tender *Gardenia*. Bids have been received to be opened November 10. The tender *Aster*, for the eighth district, was authorized by the act of March 3, 1915, but no appropriation is as yet available.

WIDE VARIETY OF FOREIGN INQUIRIES.

An example of the wide variety of queries that the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is constantly receiving is furnished by an inquiry about campaign buttons in a Latin-American country. A manufacturer in the United States is to make the buttons, and has asked the Bureau, through one of its branch offices, what the rates of duty are on this class of goods in the country to which they are to be sent.

A steady stream of letters to the Bureau bring questions about foreign tariff rates in various Central and South American countries, about railroad fares, economic conditions, markets for specific products, and innumerable other subjects related to trade, especially the trade of the Latin Republics to the south. American merchants are seeking in many ways to capture the attention of that section of the world on its "shopping tours."

An inquiry which involves the study of railroad fares for various points in practically all the South American countries means considerable research by the Bureau, but it furnishes the information as promptly as possible. Another correspondent desires information about the varieties and quantities of fruit to be found among the products of South America, and the particular locations of the varieties. In this instance also the Bureau gives careful attention to the task of delving for the required facts.

Some manufacturers call for information which, as a rule, will have to be obtained from the agents of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in the field. One firm asks about the market for gas tips for open-flame gas jets. Another, which makes Babbitt metal bearings, would like to know what chance there is of selling antifriction bearings in South America.

The Bureau has been asked to explain the triangular method of settling trade balances between South America and the United States by way of Europe, and the amounts involved. Persons interested in foreign trade also take up other economic questions. In fact, variety characterizes each day's mail of the Bureau, and South America is receiving special attention. The same mail that brought the query about campaign buttons contained a letter from a manufacturer who desired information about rates of duty on cabinet files to be shipped to a Latin American country.

All these communications are receiving the careful attention of the Bureau, and the Government officials find in them pleasing evidence of broader efforts to extend American trade.

CHILE'S ESTIMATED BUDGET DEFICIT.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Oct. 5; all sums stated in United States gold.]

The Chilean Minister of Finance, in a recent report to the Budget Committee, stated that it now appears that the deficit for the year 1915, which in October, 1914, was estimated as high as \$16,000,000, would not exceed \$4,550,000. The revenues for the year are estimated as totaling \$47,880,000, with \$22,400,000 cash on hand December 31, 1914. The total expenses of the Government in 1915 are now placed at \$74,650,000, on which basis the deficit to be met at the end of this year would be \$4,370,000, or \$1,810,000 less than the deficit for the last prewar year (1913).

GREEK DEMAND FOR AMERICAN CAMERA SUPPLIES.

[Vice Consul George P. Waller, Jr., Athens, Sept. 15.]

The Greek market for photographic goods, until the beginning of the present war, was abundantly supplied. Cameras were obtained for the most part from American, German, and British firms in the order named, while chemicals, plates, and papers came largely from German firms.

As Greece is now practically cut off from the German market photographic chemicals, especially of the rodinal class of developers, are much in demand, and American-made chemicals seem to have an excellent opportunity to supplant the German products. The path has already been made smooth for the greater use of American preparations by the introduction in the last few years of the extremely ingenious tank for daylight development of films, manufactured by an American firm and requiring for its proper use American chemicals, which need only the addition of water before use.

There is a brisk market for American films, although this article, by reason of its very excellence, does not always yield as good photographs as do films of less speed. The dazzling sunlight, together with the high actinic value of the very blue, usually unclouded, skies prevailing for the greater part of the year in Greece requires that the lens of a camera be stopped down to an aperture which would in northern Europe mean hopeless underexposure for ordinary films. An enterprising manufacturer would find a good market for a much slower film, which he might advertise as being prepared expressly for tropical, seaside, or oriental use, with fixed-focus hand cameras adjusted to American conditions. These instruments might then be successfully used in Greece or other lands where similar conditions prevail without changing the stops or speed of the shutter.

New Source for Miniature Cameras Sought.

The films most in demand here are the familiar post-card sizes. The eight-exposure films for waistcoat-pocket cameras, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, are also greatly in demand, as the closing of the German market has reduced the sale of the miniature cameras of German manufacture. As these cameras are frequently not made in standard sizes, they may be profitably replaced by a miniature camera of American manufacture which may be equipped to enlarge the tiny negatives to any reasonable size. This little camera, well known in the United States, sells at retail in Greece for \$8.70. Equipped with the better lens mentioned it costs \$17.95. There is also a small camera of English manufacture on the market, somewhat similar to the instrument mentioned, but taking a slightly smaller picture. This is not very popular, however, although it retails for about \$1.55 less than the American article.

An American camera has been placed on sale here recently for amateur use. Instead of films it uses ferrotype plates, the old-fashioned "tintype," enabling the operator to expose, develop, and finish a photograph by daylight in from two to three minutes. Sales of this type are very small.

The introduction of extremely simple and compact enlarging apparatus of American production has in turn created an active market for bromide printing paper, which is extremely sensitive to light and

has heretofore not been in general use by amateurs, owing to the delicacy requisite to its proper manipulation.

Window Displays of American Goods.

American firms now supplying the Grecian market advertise widely and the principal depots carry excellent window displays of the goods. Correspondence with prospective customers should be in Greek or French, and it is suggested that advertising matter and labels be printed in French and that all measurements be given in metric units.

The prices of photographic materials of American manufacture have not advanced in Greece on account of the war. American films sell for exactly the same price as in the United States, although cameras generally cost more. A popular hand camera, representative of a type selling for \$2 in America, costs the equivalent of \$3.20 here, while the waistcoat-pocket instrument, which in America retails for \$6, costs only a few cents less than the equivalent of \$9 in Greece. Printing paper of the "gaslight" type is sold under a name long since obsolete in America, to meet German competition, at an equal price, while the regular brands are sold under their American names at no advance upon the English and American price.

Although one may frequently find foreign cameras apparently equal to the American products and selling at a lower price, the majority of Greek amateurs seem to prefer the American products, which were the pioneers in their field and are still well in the lead wherever the prime photographic factors of simplicity, durability, and quality are considered. Until the last few months there has been no direct exportation of photographic goods from America to Greece. Alexandria, Egypt, was the headquarters of the trade for this part of the world, and American orders were handled through that general agency.

[A list of large dealers in photographic supplies in Athens may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67016.]

GLASGOW CLEANSING DEPARTMENT'S REPORT.

[Consul John N. McCunn, Glasgow, Scotland, Sept. 16.]

During the departmental year 1914-15 of the cleansing department of the Glasgow Corporation the total weight of food rejected as unfit for human consumption amounted to about 123 tons (ton = 2,240 pounds). This comprised eggs, cheese, fish, tinned meat, fruit, and vegetables. The eggs alone weighed 63 tons $8\frac{1}{2}$ hundredweight, which means that considerably over 1,000,000 eggs were found unsound.

The revenue derived from waste materials taken from the city refuse was \$17,037. The cost of working the department amounted to \$750,511, as against \$672,180 for 1913-14, an increase of \$78,331, or \$10,209 more than the estimate. The total quantity of refuse dealt with was 416,276 tons, and the cost of collecting it, exclusive of harbor material, was \$273,224, an increase of about 12 cents per ton over the preceding year.

Produce sold from the estates owned by the corporation realized \$12,185. The remainder, valued at \$28,337, was used in the cleansing stables and other departments in the city or on their farms.

SOURCES OF BAGS FOR SOUTH AMERICAN PRODUCTS.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Venezuela, Oct. 7.]

This country exports annually from 1,500,000 to 1,800,000 sacks of coffee and cocoa, and also uses many sacks as containers for dividivi, mangrove bark, pearl shell, and other products. The importation of sacks, however, is limited, as the tariff favors the import of jute cloth rather than of sacks. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, such importations were: Empty sacks, 288,523 pounds, valued at \$11,854; sacks of canvas or hemp, 91,801 pounds, worth \$12,103; and jute cloth, known as "Crudo No. 3," 486,694 pounds, valued at \$378,776.

On ordinary fabrics, to be employed for sacks or for wrapping, made of hemp, jute, or analogous fibers, pure or mixed with cotton, not bleached by chemicals, though having bands or squares of color, the customs duties and surtaxes amount to \$3.42 per 100 pounds gross weight, provided that the semisum of threads does not exceed 6 in a square of 5 millimeters (0.197 inch). Similar fabrics bleached chemically or having more than 6 threads per 5 millimeters, and made sacks are dutiable at \$10.27 per 100 pounds. Used sacks in general are also dutiable at \$3.42 per 100 pounds, and used sacks brought in for use in the exportation of dividivi, mangrove bark, and mother-of-pearl shell are admitted free.

Sacks for coffee and cocoa are made to hold 100 or 110 pounds; each one requires 2½ meters of material (Crudo No. 3), and weighs 2½ pounds, the present cost in La Guaira being 40 cents each. At present all bagging is credited to Great Britain in the import statistics, but it is not known whether it is the product of Scotch or of Calcutta mills.

A list of dealers and importers is appended.

[Consul Herbert R. Wright, Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, Sept. 28.]

Exporters Manufacture Their Own Bags.

During 1914 there were 309,405 bags used for the exportation of coffee, cocoa, and coconuts. These were made here, as no bags are imported. During the same period 737,856 pounds of burlap cloth, valued at \$88,830.17, were imported from the following countries: United Kingdom, 714,575 pounds, valued at \$83,063; Germany, 17,685 pounds, valued at \$5,065; Netherlands, 5,696 pounds, valued at \$701.

This cloth sells here for \$0.193 United States currency per yard, and it takes about 1½ yards for a bag, each exporter making his own.

[Consul George E. Chamberlin, Georgetown, British Guiana, Sept. 29.]

Used for Sugar and Rice in British Guiana.

Jute or burlap bags are used extensively in this consular district, in the sugar and rice industries. The sugar bags are of a size to hold 250 pounds, and the rice bags 180 pounds.

The chief sources of supply have been the British East Indies and the United Kingdom, and the annual consumption is from 1,250,000 to 1,500,000 bags. The imports by countries for 1913, the latest available statistics, were: British East Indies, 60,155 dozen bags, valued at \$99,468; United Kingdom, 34,263 dozen, \$47,725; British West Indies, 4,228 dozen, \$4,789; United States, 1,708 dozen, \$2,290;

Dutch Guiana, 9 dozen, \$7; total, 100,363 dozen, valued at \$154,279. The present price of these bags is from 19 to 20 cents each, c. i. f. Georgetown.

[Lists of firms interested in jute or burlap bags in Georgetown, British Guiana, Puerto Cabello, La Guaira, Caracas, Carupano, and Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67,834.]

MODEL PUBLIC BATHS IN ENGLISH CITY.

[Consul J. E. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, Sept. 29.]

Erection has been commenced of buildings for the Bristol North District Baths. There will be a series of slipper baths, a large swimming bath, and a laundry department; the portion to be carried out at present includes the swimming bath, boiler house, and laundry.

There are to be 8 first-class and 10 second-class slipper baths, and 18 Kane's needle and shower baths for men, as well as 8 slipper baths and a like number of Kane's baths for women. The establishment is to be up to date on plans prepared in the office of the City Engineer, Bristol.

The swimming bath will be in a large hall 100 by 54 feet, the bath water area being 75 by 30 feet. The pool will be of cement concrete, lined with asphalt and faced with white glazed bricks, and the gangways paved with corrugated paving tiles. The 51 collapsible dressing boxes may be folded against the wall to give additional accommodation for the public at swimming entertainments. There will be four exits communicating with the street, and four staircases leading from the galleries.

Connected with the swimming bath are two competitors' rooms each 15 by 16½ feet, a club room 17 by 15½ feet, two dressing rooms, and kitchen. There will be a shed for bicycles and marshaling the swimming classes. A foot bath 10 by 8 feet for ablution before entering the swimming pool is included. There are also the usual lavatories, attendant's office, and shower bath.

In addition to windows the building will be lighted the full length of the roof, and air purification will be accelerated with electric fans. A patent filtration, aeration, and reheating plant will be capable of changing the water in the bath at the rate of 12,000 gallons per hour.

EARLY RISE IN BOHEMIAN GLASS PRICES.

[Consul Wallace J. Yeung, Carlsbad, Bohemia, Austria, Oct. 9.]

Within the near future there will be a general increase in the price of Bohemian glass products, it is forecasted. This increase will take effect probably about November 1. In the higher grade decorated and engraved goods the increase will average 25 per cent.

This is due to the greatly increased cost of the raw materials. It is also expected that the price of quartz sand will advance, since previously the Bohemian glass manufacturers bought either Austrian or German sand and at present there is an embargo upon the exportation of this sand from Germany, and the Austrian sand trade therefore has an increased demand, with a market free from foreign competition.

No increase in wages in the glass trade is at present anticipated.

LAKE CARRIERS ORDER MEN TO NOTE CHANGES IN LAW.

The following letter from the vice president and general manager of the Anchor Line to the captains of the company's vessels is printed for the information of the public. The Mutual Transit Co. takes the same commendable attitude:

ANCHOR LINE, Buffalo, N. Y., October 19, 1915.

To all Captains:

A circular letter sent out by the Lake Carriers' Association to their captains covers the point so fully in regard to the position that we want you to take in reference to the seamen's bill, effective November 4, 1915, that we inclose a copy for your guidance. We propose to carry out the provisions of this bill to the best of our ability, and we want you to study each section of the bill which we inclose. Our steamers will be recertificated as of November 4, and from present indications we will have to carry one more oiler and three additional coal passers on our larger type of boats, and possibly three on the smaller type, although we are in hopes that the crew will only be increased by two coal passers and one oiler on the smaller type. The above applies to our freight boats. The additional crew required on our passenger boats has not yet been decided upon by the inspectors. Your attention is called to section 3 of the seamen's act reading as follows:

"The seamen shall not be shipped to work alternately in the fireroom and on deck, nor shall those shipped for deck duty be allowed to work in the fireroom or vice versa;

The purpose of this part of section 3 was to stop the practice of having men employed on deck to work in the coal bunkers or fireroom, and to be called from this duty to work on deck. In certificating a steamer upon which it is necessary to have men, in addition to the firemen, for the purpose of passing coal or doing other necessary fireroom work, such necessary men will be designated on the certificate as coal passers, and sailors of a sufficient number will be designated for deck duty. This means, as you will see, that the duties of the men designated as coal passers must be confined entirely to the fire hold and engineer's department, and they will not be allowed to take up any deck service, except in cases of peril or extraordinary conditions in which the safety of your ship demands that you call upon your entire crew to save ship, crew, or cargo.

On the other hand, the duties of men designated as sailors on the certificate of inspection will be confined to deck work, and they will not be allowed to take part in any of the engine or fireroom departments.

Post yourself in regard to the payment of wages to your seamen. They are entitled to receive, on demand, one-half part of wages then earned at any of our ports of call. You can always arrange to get the money for them through our different port agents. Provided, however, such a demand shall not be made before the expiration of or oftener than once in five days.

From this you must know that I want you to do your very best to comply with the law so as to get through the balance of this season. During the winter, if we are running, we can then call our captains and engineers together and discuss the bill more intelligently, after we see how it works out for a month.

I want your attitude toward the inspectors to be that of trying to comply to the best of your ability. If you do this, we are assured that there will be no trouble in the enforcement of the law.

I want to call your attention, on account of the great number of boats now in operation, to the necessity on your part of the greatest care and caution in navigating your boat night and day, and absolutely complying with the rules of the road, and be more than careful in fog. There is more danger now of collisions than ever before. Bad weather is coming on and I want you to realize that above everything else we are interested in the safety and lives of our men. Second, the protection of our own property is only possible by eternal vigilance on your part and the part of your officers in navigating your ship. I appreciate the feeling in your mind of getting around just as quickly as you can on account of the high grain rates, etc., and we want you to do your best. But I want you to realize that we want you to err on the side of safety. Keep in close touch, before leaving port, with the weather bureau; find out what the forecast is going to be, then use your own good judgment. When conditions are favorable and everything is all right, clear sailing, if you find you can make port a little quicker by burning a little more coal, take this matter up with your engineer, and again use your own good judgment, if by so doing good results will be accomplished. We want to always give our westbound and east-bound freight good dispatch, but we won't want to take any chances in doing so; that is, never take a chance to make time; that is not what I consider careful, safe navigation, or proper care of your men and your boat. I want your record to be above reproach, and we want the world at large to know that the Anchor Line has safe, careful navigators who are impressed with the fact that they have the lives and safety of their crews always before them and are doing everything in their power to protect the interests entrusted to them.

Your attention is also especially called to that part of the law reading as follows:

"While such vessel is in a safe harbor no seaman shall be required to do any unnecessary work on Sundays or the following-named days: New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day; but this shall not prevent the dispatch of a vessel on regular schedule or when ready to proceed on her voyage. And at all times while such vessel is in a safe harbor, nine hours, inclusive of the anchor watch, shall constitute a day's work. Whenever the master of any vessel shall fail to comply with this section, the seamen shall be entitled to discharge from such vessel and to receive the wages earned." Yours, truly,

J. C. EVANS, Vice President and General Manager.

British Columbia shingle mills are experiencing a lively demand from the United States.

RESTRICTION OF EGG-PRODUCT TRADE IN CHINA.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, Sept. 27.]

There has been an unusual demand in the Hankow district for egg products, resulting in unusually high prices. Egg-yolk powder soluble in cold water is the highest priced; its supply is extremely limited as the only desiccated egg factory with equipment for manufacturing this article is owned by a German firm whose facilities for export shipments are practically cut off.

Dry albumen, which is extensively exported, is manufactured by all egg-product factories. Egg albumen has advanced rapidly in price. One firm informs this office that at the end of May quotations were made for delivery in New York at 42 cents gold per pound; at the beginning of July it had risen to 44 cents per pound; at the end of August it had risen to 48 cents; while to-day the quotation is 56 cents per pound, without actual business, as there is no available stock ready for delivery.

There has been an unusual demand for egg products in the United States during the last few months, and the local market has been so short that the demand could not be filled. One American firm which usually purchased some 80,000 pounds per annum is practically unable to procure any part of this quantity at terms on which the business will prove profitable.

There may be a number of causes contributing to the high price of albumen throughout the world, but so far as the local market is concerned the shortage is largely accounted for by the fact that many plants here and at other places in China are owned by the Germans, who, finding it impossible to obtain shipping facilities in Japanese and British bottoms (which nationalities control the entire trans-oceanic shipping from the Chinese coast), have closed down, thus reducing the manufactured output so materially as to enhance its price.

PARCEL SERVICE FROM SHANGHAI TO MANCHURIA.

[Extract from Manchuria Daily News of Oct. 8, by Consul A. A. Williamson, Dairen, Japanese Leased Territory.]

On the through railway and steamer goods service of the South Manchuria Railway and its Dairen-Shanghai steamer route, parcels have hitherto been treated as ordinary goods to no small inconvenience of the consignors and consignees. The railway has now opened a parcel service with through traffic stations at Liaoyang, Mukden, Tiehling, Kaiyuan, Ssuningkai, Kungchuling, Changchun, Yingkou, Port Arthur, and Antung. The through parcel business will be transacted also at the Shanghai branch of the railway wharf office and Seitou (Tsingtau) branch.

The parcels for transportation by the new service must be less than 4 cubic feet or 150 kin in weight per package. Among special parcel goods may be included newspapers, magazine, etc., and treasures (valuables).

As in the case of ordinary through goods, the customs procedures at Dairen may be undertaken by the station master, Dairen, at the request of the owners on presentation of a written request authorizing him to act on their behalf in the matter.

USE OF CALIFORNIA WINES IN FRANCE DISCUSSED.

[Consul Clarence Carrigan, Nantes, France, Oct. 8.]

The quantity of wine produced in the western Provinces of France this year will be exceedingly small. It is reported that the vintage is only one-tenth of what was expected. In fact, since 1854 no season has been as poor as this one in the quantity of wine produced, although the quality is probably good. The failure is due principally to mildew, which attacked the vines at the blossoming time, as a result of excessive rains and fog. It is currently said that the vines have suffered so from mildew that the vintage for 1916 will probably be affected.

It is an interesting fact that vines of American origin, known as "Noah," were the only plants not damaged by mildew. Probably half the wine growers of this region are supplied with these vines. American plants should now be in large demand. This year the "Noah" vines have yielded 30 barriques (barrique=238 quarts) to the hectare (2½ acres). The wine is white, ordinary, and of strong quality. It is kept for one year before use or it is mixed with other wines. In ordinary seasons it sells for 15 to 18 francs (\$2.90 to \$3.47) per barrique. This year the price for the same quantity is 100 francs (\$19.30).

Remarkable Apple Crop—Cider Prices to be Low.

In contrast to the poor vintage is the remarkable apple crop of this section, which will hold the price of cider at a low figure, though the demand will be very large. Cider is used here in large quantities throughout the winter. The Departments of Morbihan, Cotes-du-Nord, and Loire-Inferieure have had record apple crops this year. Cider is sold as low as 10 francs per hectoliter (\$1.93 per 26 gallons) at the point of departure.

The Department of Vendee produces annually some 7,925,114 gallons of ordinary white wine. The red wines are insignificant.

Practically no wine is produced in the Departments of Finistere and Cotes-du-Nord. The cider industry is important.

Fifty thousand hectares of ground (123,552 acres) are planted in vineyards in the Department of Indre-et-Loire. There is an annual production of over 42,000,000 gallons of wine, of which some 1,320,000 gallons are of fine quality.

There are 30,000 hectares (74,131 acres) of ground planted in the Department of Loire-Inferieure, nine-tenths of which are given to white wines. The usual annual production is about 800,000 hectoliters (21,133,637 gallons).

In the Department of Morbihan a comparatively small area is planted to vineyards. There is a white wine of mediocre quality and the red wines are insignificant. The annual production is about 50,000 hectoliters (1,320,852 gallons).

In the Maine-et-Loire Department both red and white wines of good quality are produced, though the white wines are especially known. The mean annual production amounts to 1,500,000 hectoliters (39,625,570 gallons). Notable are the Saumur wines, which are well known in America, and also the "Coulée de Seran."

Practically No Wines to be Shipped out of District.

In ordinary years the Muscadets of this region are largely consumed in Brittany. The "Folle Blanche" commands a large market

in Paris. The wines of Anjou are exported to a certain extent to England, while the sparkling wines of Saumur are principally given to the American trade. It is expected that practically no wines will be shipped out of the district this year, as the yield is hardly enough to satisfy the local demand.

Large quantities of wine, red and white, are imported into this part of France from Algeria, even in ordinary years. This year the importation is enormous, and the selling prices are more than double what they were in 1906. Importations from Algeria have steadily increased during the past 30 years.

The possibility of introducing American wines in this market is of special interest. California wines are practically unknown here, as the local production is usually sufficient to satisfy the demand, and the prices of the American wines have been considered prohibitive. This year, however, in view of the present vintage, these wines might command a sale. Qualities similar to the French wines would be desired. It would be difficult to judge from this side whether prices could be made interesting to the trade of this district.

Prices Now Quoted in France for Wines.

Saumur wines sold in 1914 for 1,000 francs per metric ton (\$193 per 238 gallons). The present price is 30 per cent above this figure. Muscadet, the price of which formerly ranged from 270 to 280 francs (\$52.11 to \$54.04) sold in 1914 for 500 francs (\$96.50) per metric ton. The present price is 50 per cent higher than this last figure. The white wine known as the "Folle Blanche" sold in 1914 as low as 100 francs (\$19.30) per metric ton. The present price is 400 francs (\$77.20).

The Bourgueils, Chinon, and Azay-le-Rideau are red wines. The Bourgueils, a light, highly flavored wine, ordinarily sells at from 300 to 500 francs (\$57.90 to \$96.50) per metric ton (238 gallons). The Chinon is a stronger wine, which sells at a slightly lower figure, while the Azay-le-Rideau is a wine of small importance, with a flavor of raspberry. Among white wines are the Vouvray—a sweet wine, highly flavored, selling all the way from 300 to 1,000 francs (\$57.90 to \$193) per metric ton—and the Coteaux de St. Cyr and Montlouis wines of inferior quality. The wines mentioned are well known throughout France, especially at Paris, where the Vouvray and Bourgueils are very popular.

During the quarter ended September 30 the American consulate at Edinburgh, Scotland, was instrumental in obtaining business connections for American manufacturers and exporters with jobbers and agents in that city handling asbestos specialties, motor plows, cotton twine, adding and calculating machines, and metal novelties.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Kitchen ranges, No. 19172.—An American consular officer in China reports that a real estate company desires illustrated catalogues, prices, terms, etc., on American kitchen ranges with hot-water attachments.

Sewing machines, sugar machinery, etc., No. 19173.—A report from an American consular officer in Venezuela states that a man desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of sewing machines, sugar machinery, portable typewriters to retail at \$50, and small marine engines, with a view to acting as sole agent. Correspondence may be in Spanish or English.

Worsted yarn, No. 19174.—A Norwegian manufacturer of cloth and quilts desires to correspond with American manufacturers of worsted yarn. References furnished. Correspondence may be in English.

Wearing apparel and textiles, No. 19175.—A firm in the Netherlands informs an American consular officer that it wishes to represent manufacturers of hosiery, underwear, corsets, blouses, woolen cloth, and flannels. References furnished. Correspondence may be in English.

Cut glass, No. 19176.—A report from an American consular officer in the Far East states that there is a demand for catalogues, prices, etc., for cut glass of a medium-priced quality, such as bonbon and similar dishes. Quotations c. i. f. Hongkong only.

Machinery, No. 19177.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a representative of extensive plantations in the Dutch East Indies is in the market for machinery for roasting coffee, drying tea, and preparing crude rubber for the market.

Telephone wire, No. 19178.—A telephone company in Norway wishes to buy 3,000 kgs. (6,613.86 pounds) of silicium bronze wire; the diameter of the wire should be 1.3 mm. (0.051181 inch), with 40 per cent minimum conductivity and 70 kgs. (154.3234 pounds) minimum breaking strain per square mm. (0.03937 inch), the wire being according to British post office specifications. Correspondence in English. Definite terms are wanted.

Machinery, No. 19179.—Supplementing Confidential Circular No. 752 an American consular officer in South Africa reports that he has not had satisfactory responses to his request for catalogues for machinery for making straw envelopes for bottles. Interested American firms should give prompt attention to this opportunity.

Automobile magazines and gasoline, No. 19180.—A firm in Norway has informed an American consular officer that it desires to receive sample copies of magazines publishing articles on electric automobiles and gasoline with a view to subscribing for such magazines.

Railway equipment, etc., No. 19181.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a banker in the Netherlands, having special facilities for trading with the Colonies, desires to represent American manufacturers of railway equipment, agricultural implements, builders' tools, tools for making shoes, office furniture, and file cases.

Graphite and leaded tin, No. 19182.—A report from an American consular officer in Norway states that a firm in that country desires quotations on several thousand tons of graphite and several hundred tons of American leaded tin.

Sponges, No. 19183.—It is stated that there is a possible market for sponges in China, and interested exporters may obtain names of druggists and chemists from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Hosiery, gloves, etc., No. 19184.—A report from an American consular officer states that a firm in the Netherlands wishes to represent manufacturers of hosiery, gloves, underwear, cotton dress goods, etc., on a commission basis.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 264 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, November 10 1915

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AMENDMENT TO EXEMPTION OF WHEAT CARGOES.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, London.]

In a further statement regarding the freedom from requisition of vessels with wheat, action on which was mentioned in a previous cable, the British Government Board of Trade gives an amendment to the exemption, which now applies only to those vessels shown to the satisfaction of the Admiralty to have been "fixed" before noon, November fifth.

[The word "fixed" in this cablegram refers to the contract or charter of such vessels as would be considered exempt from requisition by the British Government. This amendment, when incorporated with the statement from London, published in COMMERCE REPORTS November 9, provides that vessels, for which the contract or charter was signed before noon of November 5, and which load by December 15, with wheat from an American Atlantic port, shall be exempt from requisition on arrival in a United Kingdom port, and free to start another voyage, not necessarily North Atlantic, after the cargo is discharged.]

TO STUDY AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

The Government of Colombia has appointed two special official agents to study agricultural and commercial institutions in the United States. The selection of Senores Don Antonio Borda C. and Don Juan A. Montoya B. for this official visit has been announced by the Minister of Colombia in this country, who states that his Government desires to strengthen all possible ties with the United States.

ADDITIONS TO NETHERLANDS EMBARGO LIST.

[Telegram from American consul general, Rotterdam, Nov. 5, 1915.]

The following products have been added to the Netherlands embargo list: Tinplate waste; vegetables, dried and preserved; iron and steel rods; tool steel; cottonseed, coconut, sesame, soya, and peanut oils; cocoa butter and all edible fats, except margarine for use as butter substitute; coins of nickel and copper; beehives; flax; egg albumen and yolks, liquid or powdered, and products thereof; beech-nuts; linseed oil.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION ON THE GREAT LAKES.

Notices regarding the winter discontinuance of aids to navigation on the Great Lakes have been issued by the Bureau of Lighthouses. These directions governing such aids in the eleventh district sent out from the inspector's office at Detroit, Mich., show that, in several instances, the closing of certain light stations will be followed by the use of lights to be shown for periods of 14 to 17 days.

The Lighthouse Service has already received from Mr. William Livingstone, president of the Lake Carriers' Association, a letter requesting the continuance of aids to navigation in the district to as late a date as possible consistent with safety to life and property. This letter, in stating the special conditions existing this year, presented these facts and accompanying requests:

Owing to the unprecedented demand which has suddenly sprung up within the last 30 or 40 days for grain tonnage, and the rapid increase in rates—at present the highest that have been paid for over 10 years—all the available tonnage on the Lakes has been put in commission. Tonnage has been put in commission the last 60 days that has not been in commission for two years or over owing to the depressed condition of affairs on the Great Lakes. Freights are now the highest on record, with not tonnage enough to go around.

On account of this sudden revival and the high rates prevailing the result will unquestionably be that this fall owners will be desirous of running as late in the season as they possibly can. This will naturally cause urgent requests for maintaining aids to navigation that do not jeopardize life in any way as late as weather conditions will possibly permit.

Isolated lighthouses, where conditions might suddenly arise that there might be danger in getting the keepers off, of course, could not be considered, as their safety would have to be and should be the first consideration. But, outside of such cases, requests and demands for continuance of aids are sure to be very urgent.

I therefore thought I would suggest the advisability of taking the matter up with the Bureau of Lighthouses and see if some arrangement can not be made to continue aids to navigation as late as is consistently possible, so that whatever arrangements might be necessary could be made in advance.

It is of the utmost importance that as much of the enormous crops of the Northwest should be moved by the close of navigation as is possible, as it will be impossible for the rail lines to meet all the demands made upon them for some time to come. And the importance of this to our farmers throughout the Northwest and the business interests of the whole country at large, which are coincident, would be difficult to estimate.

In forwarding the data for notices to mariners from the Detroit office, the inspector calls attention to the fact that somewhat similar notices have been issued by the Canadian Government. The various points at which the winter changes are made by the United States Lighthouse Service are as follows:

Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin—Straits of Mackinac, Lake Michigan, and Green Bay.—The lights and fog signals at the following-named stations will be discontinued for the winter, at sunrise, December 10-20, 1915: St. Helena Light Station, December 10; White Shoal Light Station, December 10; Ile Aux Galets Light Station, December 10; Beaver Island Light Station, December 20; South Fox Island Light Station, December 10; Pottawatomie Light Station, December 20; St. Martin Island Light Station, December 10; Squaw Island Light Station, December 10.

All coast lights and fog signals on east side of Lake Michigan north of North Manitou Island, and all coast lights and fog signals on west side of Lake Michigan and Green Bay north of Cana Island, will be discontinued for the winter at the close of navigation, except Pilot Island Light Station, Plum Island Range Light Station, Poverty Island Light Station, and Seul Choix Pointe Light Station.

All of the Sturgeon Bay lights, Sherwood Point Light Station, Green Island Light Station, Chambers Island Light Station, and Menominee Pierhead Light Station will be closed on the last trip of the car ferry.

Green Bay Harbor Entrance, Sturgeon Bay, and Oconto Harbor.—The iron buoys, including gas buoys, will be removed for the winter between November 20 and 25, 1915, and their stations marked by wooden spars similarly colored and numbered.

Lake Michigan, northwest end, and Green Bay.—The iron buoys, except gas buoys, will be removed between November 20 and 25, 1915, and their stations marked by wooden spars similarly colored and numbered. The gas buoys will be removed between November 25 and December 5, 1915, and their stations marked by wooden spars similarly colored and numbered.

Lake Michigan, northeast end, and Straits of Mackinac.—The iron buoys, except gas buoys, will be removed between November 20 and 25, 1915, and their stations marked by wooden spars similarly colored and numbered. The gas buoys will be removed between November 25 and December 5, 1915, and their stations marked by wooden spars similarly colored and numbered.

Lake Michigan, south end.—The iron buoys, including gas buoys, will be removed about December 12, 1915, and their stations marked by wooden spars similarly colored and numbered.

Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.—Lake Huron and Lake Superior and connecting waters.—Aids to navigation to be discontinued for the winter season, 1915:

Detroit River.—All gas buoys in East and West Bar Point Channels, excepting East Channel Gas Buoys, 2, and Bar Point West Channel Gas Buoy, 1, and Livingstone Channel Gas Buoys, 8A, 13A, 12A, and 17A to be withdrawn about December 5.

Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, and St. Clair River.—All gas buoys in these waters, with the exception of those noted above, to be withdrawn about December 10.

Lake Huron.—Poe Reef and Martins Reef Light Vessels will be withdrawn from their stations and Spectacle Reef Light Station will be discontinued about December 5. Lake Huron and Bar Point Light Vessels will be withdrawn about December 1. All gas buoys in Lake Huron, Saginaw Bay, and Straits of Mackinac will be withdrawn between November 12 and 25.

St. Marys River.—All gas buoys will be withdrawn after November 28. The more important buoys will be retained until the latest practicable date.

Lake Superior.—All gas buoys will be withdrawn about December 1. Granite Island, Stannard Rock, and Manitou Light Stations to be closed about December 3. Passage Island and Rock of Ages Light Stations to be closed about December 12. Outer Island Light Station to be closed about December 14. All other Apostle Island Light Stations will be closed about between December 5 and 10. The dates given above will be adhered to as closely as is consistent with existing conditions at the time. The lights at leading shore stations will be in commission until all through navigation has ceased.

Michigan—Lake Michigan, north side—Squaw Island Light Station—Temporary light.—Upon closing the station for winter, December 10, 1915, a flashing red light of 70 candlepower will be shown from pedestal on deck of lantern for a period of about 14 days. Light will show a flash every 2.5 seconds, flash 1.1 seconds duration. Dark sector of 93°, covering island and shoals, from 296° to 29°.

Michigan—Lake Michigan—Straits of Mackinac—Aux Galets Light Station—Temporary light.—Upon closing the station for winter, December 10, 1915, a fixed white light of 220 candlepower will be shown from lens in tower for a period of about 15 days.

Michigan—Lake Michigan—Straits of Mackinac—White Shoal Light Station—Temporary light.—Upon closing the station for the winter, December 10, 1915, a flashing white light of about 160 candlepower will be shown from top of lantern dome for a period of about 17 days. Light will show a flash every 3 seconds, flash 0.3 second duration.

Limited Purchasing in Paraguay.

Consul S. H. Wiley reports from Asuncion under date of October 4 that the commercial inactivity and scarcity of gold currency at present in Paraguay limits trade to the bare necessities.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The imports and exports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan, during the week ended October 30, 1915, follow:

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Ore, matte, and regulus (copper contents).		Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.	
	Pounds.		Pounds.	
Canada	644,729	\$58,107	1,733,913	\$272,025
Panama	11,758	1,769		
Mexico	49,178	7,888		
Chile			718,351	99,181
Peru	118,779	19,132	5,814,089	658,063
Japan			231,915	45,499
Total	824,444	86,896	8,498,268	1,074,768

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

Countries.			Countries.		
Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.			Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.		
Pounds.			Pounds.		
France	5,551,235	\$860,449	Chile	27,328	\$5,642
Italy	1,121,319	203,443	Peru	1,323	280
Netherlands	111,448	10,710	Uruguay	3,453	664
Norway	514,345	87,880	Venezuela	2,313	535
Russia in Europe	2,240,457	403,280	Chosen	201	68
Sweden	1,996,644	362,444	British East Indies	4,000	876
England	1,301,411	233,109	Russia in Asia	672,356	134,471
Canada	66,784	12,451	Australia	360	85
Panama	255	10	Philippine Islands	8,379	1,663
Mexico	560	142			
Cuba	9,696	1,764			
Brazil	23,703	4,753	Total	13,657,586	2,335,542

NEW MORATORIUM DECREE IN RUSSIA.

[Consul North Winship, Petrograd, Sept. 29.]

By an Imperial decree of September 20, 1915, all promissory notes executed in Russia before July 23, 1915, on which payment is due within the following Governments and districts, can not be protested or sued upon for six months from the date on which the note falls due: Governments of Vilna, Grodno, Kovno, Courland, and Livonia—all in the consular district of Riga; the Government of Minsk and the districts of Vladimir-Volinsk, Dubno, Kovel, Kremenetz, Lutsk, Ostroga, Rovno, and Staro-Konstantinof of the Volinsk Government; the districts of Kamenetz-Podolsk and Proskurov of the Podolsk Government—all in the consular district of Warsaw.

The same decree empowers the Minister of Finance, at his discretion, to extend the effect of the decree to other Governments and districts in the Empire, and to increase the length of time for which the decree is active.

Consul E. A. Wakefield reports that American transformers have been installed in the new addition to the municipal electric-light plant at Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

TRADE DURING FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending November 6, 1915, at the 13 principal customs districts of the United States, handling 91 per cent of total imports and exports, based on transactions in the month of August, 1915, are as follow:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$11,969	\$7	\$506,490
Massachusetts (Boston).....	2,184,033	194,430	1,361,324
New York.....	21,117,583	3,432,367	42,249,223
Philadelphia.....	689,223	109,845	2,524,161
Maryland (Baltimore).....	264,493	10,493	1,501,800
Virginia (Norfolk).....	90,051	32,483	808,023
New Orleans.....	\$11,078	26,269	3,107,490
Galveston.....	25,010	806	4,233,849
San Francisco.....	2,246,753	120,870	1,431,963
Washington (Seattle).....	542,153	19,333	1,781,166
Buffalo.....	1,104,717	41,576	1,408,916
Chicago.....	494,311	112,663	5,242
Michigan (Detroit).....	692,529	39,109	3,367,153
Total.....	30,273,913	4,240,694	64,286,785

The amount of cotton exported during the week ending November 6, 1915, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	3,327	Virginia.....	
Massachusetts.....	249	Galveston.....	49,208
Maryland.....	1,177	New Orleans.....	21,279
New York.....	19,085	San Francisco.....	847
North Carolina.....	6,005	Washington.....	3,806
Philadelphia.....	500		
South Carolina.....	7,450	Total.....	112,932

VESSELS ADMITTED TO AMERICAN REGISTRY.

During the week ended November 6, 1915, there was admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, by the Bureau of Navigation, one vessel, the steamer *Edna*, 1,783 gross tons, formerly the Mexican steamer *Mazatlan*, now owned by Sudden & Christenson (Inc.), of San Francisco, Cal. The total admitted for the period from July 1 to November 6, 1915, was 20 vessels of 50,865 gross tons.

Under the Repaired-Wreck Act of February 24, 1915, the following vessels have been admitted to American registry: Steamer *Moldegaard*, of 2,852 gross tons, owned by the Bull-Insular Steamship Co., of Wilmington, Del., formerly the British steamer *Moldegaard*; steamer *Elizabeth Weems*, of 1,186 gross tons, owned by the Baltimore & Carolina Steamship Co., Baltimore, Md., formerly the Norwegian steamer *Anita*; and the schooner-barge *Coastwise*, 1,432 gross tons, owned by George R. Dilkes, of Philadelphia, Pa., formerly the Italian bark *Rosalia D'Ali*.

Aluminum foil, formerly imported, is now produced in New Jersey. It partly replaces tin foil for wrapping chocolate, tobacco, and tea.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**CHILE.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Oct. 5.]

Telephone Company to Place Lines Underground.

The Chile Telephone Co. is to begin work within a few months on changing its system of wires in Valparaiso from an overhead to an underground system. At present all of the telephone wires in Valparaiso are overhead wires. In laying the wires underground care will be taken to follow the lines of streets not paved with asphalt. The general manager for Chile of the Chile Telephone Co. is Mr. William Johnston, Calle San Martin 50, Santiago. The local manager is Señor Ernesto Varas, Avenida del Brazil 54, Valparaiso. The head offices of the company are at 42 Old Broad Street, London, E. C.

Railway Budget of 1915.

The administrative council of the Chilean State Railways have advised the Minister of Finance that the difference between the total actual and necessary expenses of the roads, and the allowance made them under the budget for 1915, will be only about \$690,000 United States currency. This amount must be made to cover all extraordinary and unforeseen expenses incurred by the State Railways during the year.

The income of the State Railways for the current year is estimated at about \$14,600,000 United States currency.

CHINA.

[Consul John F. Jewell, Chefoo, Sept. 29.]

The Proposed Chefoo-Weihsien Railway.

In spite of all that has been said and written in regard to the proposed Chefoo-Weihsien Railway, it now may be truthfully stated that there is no prospect that its construction will be undertaken in the immediate future. Financial and political conditions in China at present indicate that the much discussed railway has been indefinitely deferred.

[Consul John F. Jewell, Sept. 30.]

Chefoo Breakwater and Harbor Improvement.

After many years of discussion and many unnecessary delays work is now in progress on the Chefoo breakwater. The Chefoo Harbor Improvement Commission awarded the contract to the only serious tenderer, the Netherlands Harbor Works Co., of Amsterdam and Shanghai.

The work is to be completed within four years, or by July, 1919, at a contract price of 2,677,000 haikwan taels (gold, \$1,638,324), and will make the harbor of Chefoo rank among the 10 largest harbors of its kind in the world.

The eastern breakwater will shelter ships from the prevailing northeast waves, which have heretofore made it impossible to work cargo on an average of 33 days every year. There is to be a western mole in connection with the shore, with a quay as wall, where, as opportunity requires, piers may be constructed to accommodate as many as 16 ships.

The sheltered section is to be dredged to a depth of 21½ to 26½ feet at low water, but at present that is not to be undertaken. Not until the breakwater itself is completed will the harbor proper be touched.

The foundation of the breakwater is to be of rubble which will be dumped into the channel 30 feet deep now being dredged, while the upper part is to be of blocks of masonry in cement mortar, each block of about 32 tons weight.

By presidential decree, all the materials to be used in the construction of this work have been exempted from taxation. It is believed that these works will do much toward increasing the import and export trade of the port, but it remains to be seen what effect the opening of the new port of Lungkow and the indefinite postponement of the construction of the Chefoo-Weihsien Railway will have on the future of Chefoo.

One copy of the contract for this work is forwarded [and may be seen on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 68192].

GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Sept. 30.]

Government Extends Time for Bids on Water and Sewage Works.

In the international competition that was announced by the Greek Government for a water supply and sewage system for the cities of Athens and Piræus, although bids were to have been opened under date of August 31/13 September, 1915, announcement is now made by the Greek Ministries of the Interior, of Finance, and Communications that bids for this work will be received up to December 17/30, 1915. These will be opened three days later—December 20, 1915/2 January, 1916. [A reference to this construction work was published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports of Dec. 26, 1914.]

A copy of the Official Gazette of September 11/24, 1915, setting forth the conditions under which bids will be received, is forwarded [and will be loaned on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67933.]. It will be seen that the conditions are essentially those set forth in the original call.

The enormous increase in the price of materials which has taken place in the past year seems to have been ignored by the Greek Government in the preparation of this invitation for offers, and it is seriously questioned if, in its present shape, the matter is one that would be attractive to American firms.

NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 13.]

Bank Enlargement—Railway Station Improvements.

Plans for a large addition to the Bank of the Netherlands in this city will soon be under execution. They involve the razing of several houses adjacent to the bank.

Important extensions and improvements of the Central Railroad Station and its approaches in Amsterdam will soon be commenced. Additions to the station will be made, new and larger viaducts over

streets and canals will be constructed, and the present double track will be widened to four tracks from the station to the city limits.

New First-Class Hotel.

Several years ago a project was initiated for a new first-class hotel in Amsterdam. It was nearing fruition when the war broke out and checked the movement. However, it has been decided finally to proceed with the work, and ground has now been broken for the foundations of the hotel (which will cover about 2,500 square yards) on the open square opposite the Royal Palace. The ground is taken on a long lease at a rental of 44,000 florins (\$17,688) a year. The capital stock of the hotel company is 1,500,000 florins (\$603,000), which is twice that of the hotel with the largest capital now operating in Amsterdam.

As planned at present, the building will be five stories in height—the general maximum in Amsterdam. It will have 119 bedrooms, a ball room, a large restaurant on the first floor overlooking the square, and the usual reception, reading, and private dining rooms. On the side facing Warmoes Street there will be several stores on the ground floor.

PHILIPPINES.

[Manila Daily Bulletin, Sept. 30.]

Contract Awarded for Erecting New Sugar Mill.

The contract for the sugar central to be erected from Government funds at Isabela, Occidental Negros, was yesterday awarded by the Central Sugar Board to Fawcett, Preston & Co. (Ltd.), of Liverpool, England, represented by Warner, Barnes & Co. The amount involved is approximately \$1,200,000. The mill must be ready for operation on December 15, 1916. To see that the company carries out the terms of its contract at the shops in England, Dr. Herstein, collector of customs, will probably leave within a few weeks for Liverpool.

The action of the Central Sugar Board in awarding the contract to a foreign concern disposes of any opportunity to consider American bids for this important work. On August 13 the site upon which the central should be located was selected, and proposals for the erection of this large and important plant were called for, the bidders being given only until September 15 to get sugar-machinery experts from the United States, go over the specifications, the location, and the various other conditions of the proposals, and to submit their bids. As it would take more than the allotted time to bring competent men here to do this, there were no bids for American machinery, and, although the matter was protested by the American representatives before the bids were opened, the board has undoubtedly concluded it could not consider their protests.

New Pier for Zamboanga.

The acting director of public works announced yesterday that the construction work on the new concrete pier at the port of Zamboanga is to be begun within the next few days, under the supervision of H. F. Cameron, the department engineer for Mindanao and Sulu. The project involves an expenditure of about \$22,500 and will be of great benefit to the commercial development of the southern port.

SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Sept. 8.]

Hospital Ward.

The Siam Red Cross Society has accepted the tender of a local firm for the construction of another ward in the compound of the Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital at Bangkok. The building will be constructed of brick and ferroconcrete in two stories, at a cost of about \$39,000 gold, including electric-light installation, and is to be completed in 10 months from date. The contract was awarded to the Bangkok Dock Co. (Ltd.). Address: Bangkok, Siam. Correspondence in English.

SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Sept. 15.]

Installation of Sewer Construction.

The city council of Port Elizabeth has decided to undertake the installation of a complete sewerage system. The plan provides for 56 miles of main drainage pipe and 50 miles of branch connections. The main drain pipes and sewerage appliances are estimated to cost \$1,572,000. Property owners benefiting will largely pay for the cost of sewer connections, but the municipality will spend \$350,000 in laying pipes up to the property frontage.

[Further details of the proposed sewer construction, and of the prospects for American firms to compete for the equipment, may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branches. Refer to file 68082.]

SWANSEA COAL TRADE FOR SEPTEMBER.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, detailed as vice consul, Swansea, Wales, Oct. 13.]

The exports of coal and coke from Swansea for September, 1915, amounted to 356,143 long tons (long ton equals 2,240 pounds), as compared with 211,798 tons and 388,229 tons for the corresponding months in 1914 and 1913, respectively. Amounts of patent fuel exported for the same periods were 74,859, 51,448, and 86,112 tons, respectively. The total exports of coal and coke for the first nine months of the present year were 2,888,957 tons, as compared with 2,808,166 tons in 1914 and 3,376,513 tons in 1913. The total amounts for patent fuel were 595,783, 636,683, and 732,090 tons.

The principal concern among Welsh colliery owners is the scarcity of tonnage. Of late, colliery stoppages have been numerous, especially since the withdrawal of the Greek steamers.

NEW PACIFIC SERVICE TO START NEXT MONTH.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, Oct. 1, forwarded by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama.]

The Java-China-Japan Line will establish a regular service once a month between Batavia, Samarang, Soerabaya, Macassar, Manila, Hongkong, Kobe, Yokohama, and San Francisco. According to the Asahi (Osaka), the necessary arrangements for connection with the Southern Pacific Railway have been made, and the first steamer on the new service will leave Batavia December 15.

[An announcement that this new line would serve Batavia, Hongkong, and San Francisco was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 5, 1915.]

PUBLIC ROAD IMPROVEMENT IN CANADA.

[Consul G. R. Taggart, Cornwall, Ontario, Oct. 14.]

Much interest is being shown hereabouts, especially by farmers and automobilists, in the forthcoming modern stone highway, to cost \$600,000, from Ottawa, Canada, south 60 miles to the international St. Lawrence River boundary.

This road will, it is said, be built as a memorial to the late Hon. J. P. Whitney, Premier of Ontario. Mr. Whitney was from 1882 to 1890 (when this consulate was a commercial agency with headquarters at Morrisburg, Ontario) American vice commercial agent.¹

As in the United States, the question of Federal aid in the construction of "metalled" (stone, gravel, slag, etc.) roads often arises, but so far the Government at Ottawa has no direct connection with highway improvement. Analogous, however, to State aid in road improvement, the Ontario provincial government at Toronto is now authorized by recent legislation, not only to advise and direct the construction and maintenance of permanent highways, but also to contribute toward the cost.

What the Province of Ontario is Doing.

A Department of Highways has been created at Toronto (effective Jan. 1, 1916), with a deputy minister in charge under the Minister of Public Works and Highways, providing for the appointment of an office force, engineers, etc. The Government program aims at benefiting three classes of roads, namely, township roads, county or market roads, and long stretches of main highways.

For township roads the provincial aid consists, not in helping to pay for the construction, but in encouragement and advice toward efficient township organization. The main part of such township encouragement is the payment by the Province of 25 per cent of the salary for 3 years of a township road overseer up to \$600 per year.

County or market roads consist of a system of roads meant to accommodate the greater part of the market travel in the county. The provincial government grants toward a county road system are 40 per cent of the cost of construction (said grant not to exceed \$4,000 a mile) and 20 per cent of the cost of maintenance. The balance of the cost of construction comes from the proceeds of bonds or of taxation. Roads must be built in accordance with the regulations of the Ontario Department of Public Highways. The construction of such a system of county roads may be authorized by two-thirds majority of a county council (called in the United States, sometimes, county commissioners, or board of chosen freeholders), representing at least one-half of the equalized assessment of the county; or, failing to receive a two-thirds majority of the county council, said county road construction may be carried by a simple majority of the county council, and confirmed by a majority vote of the taxpayers.

Main Highways.

A still longer system of improved highways would consist of roads running through more than one county. Such a system may be

¹ The Department of State, at Washington, in the reorganization of the Consular Service in 1906 abolished the positions of commercial agents.

properly called main highways. Toward the construction and maintenance of main highways the same assistance (40 per cent and 20 per cent) may be (when the legislation becomes effective on January 1, 1916) granted by the provincial government. The balance of the construction cost and the maintenance cost are assessed on the various municipalities served by the highway. A start may be made on main highway construction by a petition of three-fourths of the municipalities interested. When, in the opinion of the Ontario lieutenant governor in council, it is in the public interest to build such a main highway a board of trustees of five members are appointed. The board may require a report on the proposed work, with plans, specifications, and estimates, and said board may proceed with the work, making such revision of the estimates as may be necessary after hearing representations from all parties interested.

County or main highways thus aided by the Province are popularly called "Government roads." A main highway would naturally include along its route any improved county roads, or might be made up, of course, of a series of such county roads.

Legislative Authority—Action of the Counties.

The legislative authority for the above-stated provisions is as follows: Act for the improvement of public highways, R. S. O., 1914, chap. 40; amendment to this act entitled "An act to amend the highway improvement act," 5 Geo. V, chap. 16; the Ontario highways act, 5 Geo. V, chap. 17; the statute law amendment act, 5 Geo. V, 1915, sec. 29.

All this legislation is now in force except the act relating to main highways (the Ontario highways act, 1915, 5 Geo. V, chap. 17), and this exception will, it is officially announced, be proclaimed by the Ontario lieutenant governor in council on January 1, 1916.

Although 20 out of the 38 counties of Ontario have, with provincial help, developed efficient systems of county roads, these chances of provincial aid in road betterment have not as yet (except perhaps through the acceptance of encouragement in the townships) been taken advantage of in this consular district, nor, indeed, in the three counties (Dundas, Stormont, and Glengarry), of which Cornwall is the county seat. Consequently, the roads in this district are far from first class.

In Dundas County, however, Morrisburg, the western limit of this district, is bidding for the opportunity of being the southern terminus of the above-mentioned Whitney Memorial Road from Ottawa to the St. Lawrence River.

A New International Highway.

Beginning with preliminary surveys, the Ottawa-St. Lawrence Government road will doubtless be started in the spring of 1916 unless the unsettling of all conditions by the war prevents. Like the Meridian highway from Winnipeg, Manitoba, to the United States, this eastern road is intended to accommodate not only the farm traffic of the adjacent country, but also automobile travel entering Ottawa from within Canada and from the United States. Once the St. Lawrence international boundary bordering on New York State is tied to Ottawa by a modern stone road, there will be (in view of the links of good roads throughout the length of New York State) good

road connection between New York City, the metropolis of the United States, and Ottawa, the capital of Canada.

Authority for the construction of this Ottawa-St. Lawrence road would come from the above-mentioned Ontario highways act (5 Geo. V, ch. 17), when proclaimed on January 1 next. The construction and maintenance will be in charge of a commission or board of trustees to be appointed by the Ontario lieutenant governor in council. The road allowance will not be less than 66 feet wide. The roadway between ditches would be approximately 28 feet wide, with a central metalcd (stone, slag, etc.) driveway of from 10 to 16 feet in width. There are as yet no specifications nor is the type of road decided upon. In general features, however, the highway will correspond with the standard set by first-class New York State roads.

Cost of Construction—Alternative Routes.

The anticipated cost of construction of this Ottawa-St. Lawrence good road is \$10,000 a mile, or about \$600,000. Both the construction and the upkeep cost will be assessed on Ottawa and on the municipalities through which the road passes. The Province would contribute toward the cost about \$4,000 a mile, or \$240,000. Since Ottawa would benefit from the road out of proportion to the other municipalities, a larger sum than is required by the statute is proposed for Ottawa's quota, namely, \$180,000. The balance, or another \$180,000, would be assessed on the townships through which the road passes. To meet the immediate expenditure for the construction or maintenance of the road, the commission or board of trustees may issue bonds or debentures, which obligations may be guaranteed by the Province of Ontario.

Two alternative roads are proposed for this Government main road, both through strictly agricultural communities—one, Ottawa to Prescott, passing along the Rideau River and through the counties of Carleton and Grenville and the village of Kemptville; the other, Ottawa to Morrisburg, through Carleton and Dundas Counties and the village of Winchester. The decision of the route rests with the provincial government, with the city of Ottawa, and with the municipalities interested. The votes of the municipalities between Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, being each in favor of their own respective routes, would naturally cancel each other, and the choice would be left to Ottawa and to the provincial government represented by the deputy minister of highways at Toronto.

Competition for the Road.

The adherents of Morrisburg and Prescott are now active, through inspection tourists, banquets, council debates, etc., in advancing the merits of their respective towns for a terminus.

The Morrisburg parties claim that there is a better farming community between Ottawa and Morrisburg than between Ottawa and Prescott, and that the distance from Ottawa to Morrisburg (42 miles) is 16 miles shorter than from Ottawa to Prescott, which shorter distance at \$10,000 a mile represents a saving of \$160,000. They also call attention to the fact that Morrisburg has no railroad connection with Ottawa, whereas its neighboring towns (Prescott, Brockville, and Cornwall) have such connection; and that Morrisburg was the home of the late Premier Whitney, who led the en-

actment of the recent provincial good-roads legislation, and for whom the road is to be named.

The Prescott claimants, while not admitting all the contentions of the Morrisburgers, are emphasizing the superior ferry facilities from Prescott across the St. Lawrence. A regular and reliable ferry service, practically the year around, for both passengers and automobiles is available from Prescott to Ogdensburg, N. Y.—a thriving city. The St. Lawrence River between Prescott and Ogdensburg is unobstructed by islands, and at and near Ogdensburg are some of the good roads for which New York State is noted, all of which appeals to automobile tourists.

The New York town across from Morrisburg, Ontario, is Waddington, much smaller than Ogdensburg; and, while Waddington is also connected with good New York roads, the river there is obstructed by islands, and the ferry service consequently not very good.

This superiority in ferry service from Prescott and the influence of prominent men in Prescott, Ogdensburg, and Ottawa will, it is believed, bring about a decision in favor of the Prescott route.

Perhaps a compromise can be reached whereby the road will take in both places. It is thought possible to combine the advantages of the two routes by having the highway run from Ottawa to Morrisburg and thence from Morrisburg to Prescott, thus including a stretch of 20 miles along the St. Lawrence. If the calculation of the Morrisburgers as to distance is correct, such a looping route would be only 4 miles longer than from Ottawa direct to Prescott.

The people of Cornwall and vicinity are, of course, interested in having the Whitney Memorial Road take in Morrisburg, for then there would be a fine road available to Ottawa and the United States from Cornwall, 20 miles nearer than at Prescott. Moreover, if Morrisburg were the terminus of a first-class road, then the improvement of the road from Cornwall to Morrisburg (about 25 miles), either as a main highway or as a county road system, would doubtless be agitated.

Forerunner of Good Roads—Advice to American Manufacturers.

A first-class stone road between Hamilton and Toronto is, through special legislation, now nearing completion. If, by virtue of the broad legislation set forth above, Ontario embarks upon the expected extensive program of highway construction, not many years will elapse before the several stretches of good roads along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River will form a continuous boulevard between Toronto and Montreal.

Parties in the United States interested in the sale of road-building implements for the construction of the Ottawa-St. Lawrence road should communicate with the Department of Public Roads and Highways, Toronto, Ontario, where can doubtless be obtained information as to probable needs and purchasers. Very likely the board of trustees in charge of the road construction will also have a voice in any purchases; but, as above stated, this board will not be appointed until after January 1, 1916, when the legislation authorizing the Whitney Memorial Road is to be proclaimed.

M. T. Dawe, director of agriculture in British East Africa, has been appointed agricultural adviser to the Government of Colombia.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Construction work, No. 2772.—Sailed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 20, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at Humboldt, Tenn. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of site at Humboldt or at the Washington office.

Bacon, No. 2773.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., Quartermaster's Depot, United States Army, Kansas City, Mo., or Quartermaster's Depot, Omaha, Nebr., until November 17, 1915, for furnishing Serial Nos. 8 and 10 for 175,000 pounds of bacon. Proposals for delivery of Serial No. 8, bacon packed in veneer crates, of about 100 pounds net each, are invited and will be considered in making awards. Specifications for veneer crates furnished on application to the offices indicated.

Navy Department supplies, No. 2774.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 23, 1915, for furnishing the following materials. Firms interested therein should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving the schedule numbers desired: Schedule 8985, air hose, rubber fire hose, unlined linen fire hose, and suction hose; schedule 8986, linen napkins; and schedule 8988, library books. Bids will be received until November 30, 1915, for the following: Schedule 8975, 8-ton tandem road roller; schedule 8976, milling machines; schedule 8980, leather belting, cotton web belts, horizontal steering engines, flush brass handles, brass screws, machinists' vises, and 1½-inch rough white ash; schedule 8981, cast-iron pipe fittings, cast iron and wrought iron, and malleable iron unions; schedule 8982, punches, shears, wood trimmers, etc., Japan drier, and copper expansion joints; schedule 8983, safety, electric portable lanterns, and cast-iron frames for winches; schedule 8984, cotton and wool undershirts and drawers, and vinegar; schedule 8989, cone drive lathes, 14 inches and 6 feet; schedule 8990, portable boring bars, 3½ inches and 6 inches diameter, 10 feet long; schedule 8991, cylindrical surface condenser, and portable ventilating sets; schedule 8993, medium bar steel; schedule 8994, paint brushes; schedule 8995, pure lard oil, beeswax, lump borax, and pulverized silica; schedule 8996, Spanish cane for ship fenders, 3-gallon water filters and coolers, air hose, oak-tanned leather pump, side lights for motor boats, 72 inches, unbleached cotton sheeting; hand swabs, half-and-half solder bars, and round strip solder; schedule 8997, 1,000-pound folding platform scales, brass squirt cans, emery cloth, 4-pound boat grapnels, padlocks, brass nuts, garnet paper, soapstone pencils, screw drivers, steel and woven measuring tapes, machinists' steel bolt and nuts, vises, and steel or wrought washers; schedule 8998, wire bread baskets, platform scales weighing 600 pounds, glass salt and pepper shakers, and silver-plated ware; and schedule 8999, duplex telephone wire, and single stranded rubber-covered wire; schedule 9000, white ash, firsts and seconds, African and Mexican mahogany, New England spruce, spruce sticks for spars, 36 feet long, and hickory, elm, or oak sticks, 8 inches in diameter at small end; schedule 9001, steel conduit, interior communication cable, radio headgear receiver cords, magnet wire, rubber-insulated ignition wire circuits, single-conductor wire, and twin-conductor wire; schedule 9002, rectangular casting brushes, crucibles, flexible copper hose, brass bolts and nuts, steel bolts and nuts, regulus of antimony, and round monel metal; and schedule 9003, steam-plug cocks, composition pipe fittings, steel boiler tubes, composition unions, and rough brass valves, gate, etc. Bids will be received until December 7, 1915, for furnishing the following: Schedule 8978, cast-iron pipe fittings, lead pipe, wrought pipe, steel tubing, and valves, gate, etc.; schedule 8987, gas-producing apparatus; schedule 9004, pure sperm oil; schedule 9005, alcohol, copper paint, and North Carolina pine pitch; sched-

ule 9006, emery cloth, unlined linen hose, rigging leather, padlocks, and refrigerators; schedule 9007, sheet steel; schedule 9008, 3-inch round naval rolled brass, and globe angle valves, etc.; schedule 9009, seaworthy high-speed motor boat; and schedule 9010, linoleum. Bids will be opened December 14, 1915, for 1-ton automobile truck, schedule 8002.

Construction work, No. 2775.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 18, 1915, for the construction complete (including plumbing, gas piping, heating apparatus, electric conduits and wiring, lift, and approaches) of the United States post office at Middletown, Ohio. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site or from the Washington office.

AMERICAN GAIN IN JAPANESE SILK SHIPMENTS.

[Japan Daily Mail, Sept. 16.]

The report that the British Government contemplates the assessment of import duties on raw silk is received with indifference here among the trade, judged by sundry opinions so far expressed by veterans in the business. In the beginning of the Meiji era the raw-silk trade between Japan and Great Britain was very large, so much so that a branch was run in London by the Boeki-Shokai, the predecessor of the Kiito Gomei Kaisha of Yokohama, to handle the ever-increasing cargo from Japan, but now times have changed completely and the line is too insignificant to affect the trade here in any degree, even if it be restricted by taxes.

Great Britain lost her supremacy in the textile industry, and the part she played formerly is now assigned to France and the United States. As a result, the raw-silk trade between Japan and Great Britain has dwindled considerably. Last year's trade is estimated at 149,267 pounds, valued at \$461,333, which, though quite insignificant beside the total trade in the line, is still regarded as an advance, for the 1913 figure is placed at 92,124 pounds, valued at \$336,113.

WALL PAPER IN CHILE.

Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens stationed in Santiago, Chile, writes that a dealer in wall paper in that city told him recently that he was unable to buy a class of wall paper he desired in the United States. He has been buying wall paper in Germany at 7 pfennigs (1.6¢) per roll of 8 meters (about 8½ yards). The lowest quotation from the United States is 3½ cents per roll of 8 yards. Sales of 10,000 rolls should not be unusual in Chile if the price can be made to meet German competition. In the paper used in the houses of laborers there is no interest in quality.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Gas mantles, No. 19185.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm in the United States which has connections in Australia desires an agency with a company able to handle a high-grade line of gas mantles.

Hats, No. 19186.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a business man in his district desires to arrange for an exclusive retail agency for soft and stiff hats of medium and high-grade qualities. Correspondence and catalogues must be in Spanish.

Wire nails, etc., No. 19187.—A firm in the Netherlands is anxious to be placed in touch with American manufacturers interested in making agency connections for wire nails and galvanized corrugated iron sheets.

Hardware, soaps, cutlery, etc., No. 19188.—A commercial agent informs the bureau that an American living permanently in Brazil desires to act as agent for the following lines: Hardware, soaps, cutlery, hosiery, paints and varnishes, glassware, and paper goods.

Playing cards, wall paper, and feathers, No. 19189.—A report from an American consular officer in China states that a firm is desirous of corresponding with exporters of playing cards and wall paper, and with importers of duck and goose feathers. Correspondence may be in English or German.

General representation, No. 19190.—A commercial agent of the bureau reports that a man familiar with conditions in Brazil desires to become an agent for a manufacturer or a syndicate of manufacturers. It is stated that he can present good credentials.

Water pumps and motors, No. 19191.—An American consular officer in the Canary Islands reports that a firm desires to purchase a number of electrically driven water pumps and motors. Prices c. i. f. port of entry, if possible, and payment, cash against documents.

Coke ovens, etc., No. 19192.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that an engineering department in one of the South American Republics is contemplating building chambers for the carbonization of 100 tons of coal daily. Catalogues, literature, and full information from American firms manufacturing retort coke ovens, and apparatus for the utilization of ammonia, distillation of tar, and extraction of benzol are solicited.

Hosiery, No. 19193.—A report from an American consular officer states that a manufacturer's agent in the United Kingdom desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of imitation silk hosiery with a view to securing an agency.

Brick, No. 19194.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm in Canada desires names and addresses of face-brick manufacturers.

Paper doilies, No. 19195.—An American consular officer in China reports that there is a possible market for paper doilies in his district. Names of firms may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Flags, No. 19196.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France states that a business man is anxious to sell American-made flags. References given. Correspondence may be in English.

Buttons, snap fasteners, and gloves, No. 19197.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a man is interested in the importation of buttons, snap fasteners for women's dresses, and knitted cotton gloves and imitation kid gloves. Samples of snap fasteners desired are submitted and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68401.)

Machinery, No. 19198.—A letter to the Bureau from a business man in the Netherlands states that he desires catalogues and full information on tanning machinery.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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SOCIETY ISLANDS RADIO STATION NEAR COMPLETION.

The radio station now being built by the French Government on Tahiti Island, Society Islands, will be ready to receive and transmit commercial messages before the close of 1915, the United States Bureau of Navigation announces.

The temporary station now in course of erection will be followed by a much more powerful plant. The plans of the temporary station contemplate a 10-kilowatt installation of the type used by the French Government, with a wave length of 600 meters. The towers, two in number, will be 100 meters in height. The station will be expected to reach Awanui, New Zealand; Suva, Fiji; and the Samoan Islands.

Immediately upon the completion of the temporary station work will begin on the permanent station. This permanent 300-kilowatt station will be operated by a 500-horsepower gasoline engine, and will use a wave length of 2,500 meters. There will be eight towers, each 100 meters high, erected in parallel rows of four towers. The space between the towers will be 250 meters, and 200 meters between parallels. There will be two antennæ, one of 600 meters wave length, the other of 2,500 meters.

With the permanent station it is expected that communication will be established with stations in Cochin-China; South America; Honolulu, Hawaii; San Francisco, Cal.; Sydney, Australia; and even in Martinique and Guadeloupe, West Indies. All material used in the construction of these stations is supplied by the French Government and is shipped from France.

Call letters have not been assigned to the station and rates are not obtainable at the present time.

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

Consul William Dawson, of Rosario, Argentina, is now on leave of absence in the United States and will remain until about December 15, 1915. His address is 903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

Appointment of Chinese commercial attachés to Great Britain, Japan, Russia, France, Germany, Belgium, and the United States is being considered at Peking.

HIGHER PRICES AT LONDON FUR SALES.

At the main series of October fur sales in London the prices of most classes of skins offered showed an appreciable rise. According to the British press, advances of 50 per cent on the rates paid at the March series of sales were secured for wolf, cross fox, white, gray, and kit fox, 40 per cent for red fox, 30 per cent for fitch and Japanese fox, 25 per cent for beaver, 20 per cent for mink, 15 per cent for stone marten and silver fox, 10 per cent for marten and otter, with wolverine and kolinsky making improved figures, and bears, baum marten, ermine, civet cat, chinchilla, and blue fox all equaling the March level, and only Russian sable reported upon as selling irregularly. Wild cat and house cat made double prices, mole sold satisfactorily, and badger skins were unchanged. Squirrel did not, however, pass the hammer.

These increases are said to have been due to the considerable demand both in England and in neutral countries, rather than to scarcity of offerings. America was a keen buyer of all classes of furs, notably skunk and lynx, both of which are fashionable this year.

A slightly disturbing feature of the auctions, says the London Times, was the Board of Trade announcement, early in their progress, of the inclusion of furs in the list of goods which may not be exported to neutral countries except under license. This, it is stated, may tend still further to raise prices.

[The March auctions were discussed at length in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 8, 1915; reference to the other London sales was made in the issues for Feb. 13 and May 29.]

COMMERCIAL BRIEFS FROM CHILE.

[Commercial Attaché Verne L. Havens, Santiago.]

A company has been organized, called Sociedad Nacional de Calzado, at Santiago, to manufacture and sell shoes at wholesale and retail. It has a capital of 50,000 paper pesos (about \$8,300 United States gold) divided into 5,000 shares. The general manager is Felipe Santiago Espinosa, of this city, who transfers to the company his ownership of two patents registered in his name.

On August 2 a decree was issued by the Chilean Government, through the Minister of Interior, authorizing the governor of Valparaíso to borrow \$480,000 from the Guaranty Trust Co., of New York, through Wessel Duval & Co. The amount was quoted in American gold and not in pounds sterling, as has formerly been the custom.

The Chilean Government has approved the plans of the Antofagasta to Boliva railway to install a water system for the city of Mejillones, about 68 kilometers (42 miles) from Antofagasta, in the arid nitrate region on the coast. The time limit to begin and end operations of installation are one and three years, respectively, from July 26, 1915. The main offices of the railway are located at Antofagasta.

The 6 million barrels of salt produced in the United States in 1880 averaged in price \$0.81, while the 35 million barrels produced in 1914 averaged \$0.295.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he received in stock during the week ended November 6 the following new United States Government publications of a business character, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Trade Directory of Central America and the West Indies, Miscellaneous Series 22.—List of business houses in Central America and the West Indies, arranged primarily by countries, with the various industries in alphabetic order. Price, cloth, 60¢.

Markets for American Fruits, Special Consular Reports 62.—Valuable information relative to markets for American fruits in foreign countries, with the various countries arranged in alphabetical order, and suggestions as to the kinds of fruits used, methods of handling, etc.; reprint. Price, 10¢.

China and Indo-China Markets for American Lumber, Special Agents' Series 104.—Covering the lumber-trade situation in China, with imports of foreign woods, uses of timber, character of wood used, etc. Price, 5¢.

Repair and Maintenance of Highways, Public Roads Bulletin 48, reprint.—Covering repair of macadam, earth, gravel, and sand-clay roads, with article on road management, costs, dust prevention, etc.; illustrated. Price, 15¢.

Timber.—An Elementary Discussion of the Characteristics and Properties of Wood, Forest Service Bulletin 10; reprint.—A comprehensive discussion by Ellilbert Roth, Government expert, covering structure and appearance of woods, shrinkage, mechanical and chemical properties, durability, etc., with a list of the more important woods of the United States. Price, 10¢.

Drainage of Irrigated Land, Agriculture Department Bulletin 190; reprint.—Practical work, covering the objects of draining, open canals, covered drains, and construction. Price, 10¢.

Zacaton as a Paper-Making Material, Agriculture Department Bulletin 300.—Description of a new grass for paper making, giving botanical history, distribution, laboratory tests, physical tests, etc. Price, 5¢.

Phosphate Rock and Methods Proposed for Its Utilization as a Fertilizer, Agriculture Department Bulletin 312.—Covering various processes for treating phosphate rock and the manufacture of phosphoric acid and phosphoric fertilizers. Price, 5¢.

Daily Meals of School Children, Education Bureau Bulletin 3, 1909, reprint.—Practical information relating to feeding of school children, including the serving of food in schools, lunch rooms, cost of food, etc. Price, 10¢.

Vocational Guidance—Papers Presented at the Organization Meeting of the Vocational Guidance Association, Grand Rapids, Mich., October 21-24, 1913, Education Bulletin 14, 1914, reprint.—Covering the social, economic, practical, scientific, and professional phases of vocational guidance—Vocational guidance in the public school system, etc. Price, 10¢.

Education for the Home, Part 2, The States and Education for the Home—Rural Schools—Elementary Schools—High Schools—Normal Schools—Technical Institutes—Various Agencies and Organizations, Education Bureau Bulletin 37, 1914, reprint.—Relates to the teaching of domestic science and the household arts, with courses of studies, methods, etc. Price, 30¢.

Education for the Home, Part 3, Colleges and Universities, Education Bureau Bulletin 38, 1914, reprint.—Relating to domestic science, and the household arts, with courses of studies, methods, etc. Price, 25¢.

Civic Education in Elementary Schools as Illustrated in Indianapolis, Education Bureau Bulletin 17, 1915, reprint.—Covering the course of study, illustrative suggestions to civic teachers, type of lessons, etc. Price, 5¢.

Separate Advertising Matter for Consuls.

Consul Rufus Fleming, of Edinburgh, Scotland, suggests: "It is advisable that manufacturers and exporters, in writing to consular officers for the purpose of getting trade connections, should always send separate printed matter, as lists of goods, descriptions, illustrations, etc., printed on any part of their letter paper can not be fully utilized."

APPLE INDUSTRY OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

[Commercial Agent W. B. Henderson, Seattle, Oct. 27.]

The production of apples in the Pacific Northwest for 1914 and 1915, with the figures for the latter year estimated, may be stated as:

State.	1914	1915
	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>
Washington.....	8,300,000	7,092,000
Oregon.....	3,600,000	3,402,000
Idaho.....	1,700,000	1,708,000
Montana.....	900,000	1,030,000
Total.....	14,500,000	13,238,000

Three boxes of apples are equal to one barrel.

This Season's Shipments.

It will be understood, of course, that the crop is only 65 to 75 per cent moved and many of the details regarding the shipment, the price, and the markets are matters merely of conjecture. However, the figures given herein are reasonably correct.

The best authorities place the apple shipments of the present season out of the Pacific Northwest at 6,000 cars, which will average in the neighborhood of \$1.10 to \$1.25 per box, f. o. b. shipping point—not, however, net to the grower, to whom the price would be about \$0.15 per box less.

Apples exported to Europe from this section have been and will be this season very limited in amount. One of the largest fruit associations estimates that up to the present time it has exported only seven cars to Europe. About 1,200 cars are expected to go from this section direct to New York and some 200 cars have passed through Spokane for local and export trade.

Exports of Apples from Washington Customs District.

The exports of apples from the Washington customs district, by months, for 1914 and for 1915 up to the end of September, with some few shipments in October, appear in the following table:

Month.	1914			1915		
	Barrels.	Value.	Average per barrel.	Barrels.	Value.	Average per barrel.
January.....	5,279	\$22,853	\$4.33	8,728	\$19,619	\$2.25
February.....	6,782	27,615	4.07	11,508	24,304	2.11
March.....	6,082	25,300	4.16	10,402	19,696	1.88
April.....	2,142	10,022	4.68	3,789	8,414	2.22
May.....	1,258	6,470	5.14	3,130	10,037	3.21
June.....	1,083	2,626	2.42	119	432	3.63
July.....	1,735	6,370	3.69	673	2,043	3.04
August.....	3,653	10,506	2.89	1,059	3,426	3.21
September.....	13,373	38,014	2.85	12,838	33,083	2.58
October.....	18,525	48,290	2.61	61,003	83,271	3.25
November.....	23,840	50,187	2.10			
December.....	8,204	10,827	2.54			

a Partial figures.

The distribution of the exports so far from the Washington customs district, as shown by the customs officers' figures here, has been: To British Columbia, 14,078 barrels, valued at \$35,910; Hongkong,

56 barrels, value \$249; China, 250 barrels, value \$1,203; and to the Philippines, 618 barrels, value \$2,219. It will be noted that this statement does not take into consideration exports to European countries. Such shipments go principally by rail and to some extent, perhaps, through the Panama Canal to New York and find their way to foreign buyers through that port.

"KROONLAND" HEROES HARD TO LOCATE.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield is having considerable difficulty in locating several members of the former crew of the American steamer *Kroonland*, of the Red Star Line, in order to present to them the medals authorized by Congress in its resolution approved March 19, 1914. There remain at the present time 16 medals to be presented to officers and crew who have not yet been found.

On the 9th and 10th of October, 1913, the *Kroonland* went to the assistance of the burning steamer *Voltorno*, in the North Atlantic Ocean, and succeeded in rescuing 89 persons. For their gallant work the *Kroonland's* officers and crew received the thanks of Congress, and \$1,000 was appropriated by the above-mentioned resolution for the purchase of a solid gold watch and chain for Capt. Paul H. Kreibohm and 5 gold, 5 silver, and 29 bronze medals for the other officers and the crew. Secretary Redfield was authorized and directed to purchase the watch and medals and to present them.

Accompanied by Supervising Inspector General Uhler, of the Steamboat-Inspection Service, and Chief Clerk Havenner, of the Department, Secretary Redfield went to New York on January 9, 1915, and presented the watch and chain to Capt. Kreibohm, and medals to 9 of the officers and crew, the only ones who could be located at that time after diligent search and numerous inquiries. Since then 14 others have been found and have received their medals. The difficulty experienced in locating the brave men to whom the medals were awarded is illustrated in that one medal was delivered in London, England, while the recipient of another was found in the Belgian Army. The 16 to whom medals remain to be delivered are:

Frank Von Hymmen.	Heinrich Schaub.	Petrus Stobbelaar.
Alexander Sandilands.	Henri Guellinckx.	Gustav Ebling.
Heike M. P. Janssen.	Emil Böhme.	Alphons Roll.
Gérard Frans Borren- berg.	Desiré Auguste Coop- man.	August Friedrich Reck- sügel.
Ingolf Loode.	Ernst Benocke.	
Franz Quednau.	Léon Coppens.	

The United States shipping commissioner at New York City and the manager of the International Mercantile Marine Co., New York City, are cooperating with the Department of Commerce in the effort to find these men.

Sheffield (England) University is starting a glass making research department, with classes at the university and at Castleford, Knottingly, Barnsley, and Wexborough. The 8,000 glassworkers in Yorkshire who, prior to the war, were turning out only cheap glass bottles, are taking up fine glassware production.

FIREARM TRADE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Sept. 8.]

There has been in recent years a considerable and significant change in the character of the firearms owned by residents of the Philippine Islands. In the earlier years of American occupation the preponderance of arms for defense, such as revolvers, was noticeable, whereas more recently sporting goods, such as shotguns and rifles, have outnumbered weapons of defense.

Deer and wild hog furnish hunting at all seasons of the year to those who among sportsmen are denominated "pothunters," while the wild carabao and timarau offer attractions to those who are drawn to the sport by the excitement of it. The islands also have their duck and snipe seasons. Snipe hatched in Siberia and the north of Asia winter in the Philippines, and during the season the sport attracts throngs of hunters and furnishes a market for a large number of shotguns and ammunition. The duck season, that is, for migratory ducks, which also cross the China sea to winter in the Philippines, corresponds in general with that for snipe. In the lake and lagoon areas near Manila sportsmen find good duck shooting, as a rule, from October to January.

Besides the sport of field hunting, considerable interest in trap shooting is maintained in Manila by two thriving gun clubs, the Cosmopolitan and El Tiro al Blanco, whose periodic shoots attract large crowds and are regarded as important events in the social life of the city. These clubs are made up of Europeans, Filipinos, and Americans, and count among their members some good marksmen.

Value of Imports.

Firearms and ammunition are handled in Manila nearly altogether by the houses that handle athletic and sporting goods, although one jewelry house carries them as a side line. The local dealers are Squires, Bingham & Co., Erlanger & Gallinger (both American firms), C. Alkan (French), and Alfredo Roensch & Co. (German).

At present practically all the firearms imported are of American manufacture, as the following statement of the island purchases for the past two years discloses:

Firearms and ammunition.	1913		1914	
	Total.	From United States.	Total.	From United States.
Revolvers and pistols, and parts of.....	\$41,822	\$41,634	\$7,455	\$7,366
Rifles, and parts of	60,846	60,390	30,412	30,097
Shotguns, and parts of.....	16,395	15,243	10,812	9,928
All other firearms.....	483,440	483,440	222,128	222,128
Cartridges.....	154,496	154,108	230,186	229,845
Gunpowder.....	319,376	319,376	109,199	109,199
Shot.....	4,234	2,009	5,412	3,294

Only in shot does the United States meet with any material competition, Germany supplying \$2,128 worth in 1913 and \$1,912 worth in 1914.

Calcium chloride as a by-product of salt making in the United States totaled 19,403 tons, worth \$121,766 in 1914.

BARBER-SUPPLY BUSINESS AT HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 8.]

The barber business has been completely revolutionized in Hongkong in the past three years and most of the change has been directly to the benefit of trade in American barber supplies. As indicated in previous reports from this consulate general on the subject, the great change in the business came about four years ago, following the revolution in China, as a result of which the queue was discarded by the great mass of Chinese in Hongkong and the treaty ports, as well as in much of the interior of China. American-trained Chinese barbers, however, also have had much to do with the change and are responsible for the particular trend toward American supplies at present.

Previous to the revolution and to the change in style of hairdress worn by Chinese, the great mass of Chinese were served by itinerant barbers plying their vocation, with a stool, a basin, a few utensils, Chinese razors, and Chinese scissors. With the revolution came a demand for more fixed barber establishments and a large number of native shops were instituted in which native chairs were used, with some attempt to imitate foreign-style shops, and with some use of foreign supplies. The well-to-do Chinese frequented foreign-style shops, which are largely European in style and equipment and which used European supplies almost entirely. As a result of activity of American manufacturers some American supplies were sold in this field, however, and a few American chairs were introduced.

American-Trained Chinese Set the Pace.

About three years ago a Chinaman who had long been a resident of Sacramento, Cal., and who had graduated from an American school for barbers, came to Hongkong, bringing with him an outfit of American chairs and barber's supplies and implements, with which he set up a modest shop on the principal thoroughfare of Hongkong. He employed native barbers and commenced to train them in American styles and American methods and attracted a good trade. Two Chinese barbers also returned to Hongkong from Honolulu, and between them these two shops set the pace for all others and have forced the introduction of American chairs and equipment and the increasing use of American supplies in many shops. Native barbers have been given special training along American lines and the whole tendency of the progressive portion of the business or calling in Hongkong is American.

Chairs and equipment so far introduced have been imported direct. Just at present, as a result of general depression due to the war and the absence of a large portion of the normal foreign population of Hongkong, little is being done in the way of further expansion. The prospects of the trade, however, are distinctly favorable to American manufacturers. The new style shops are being patronized more and more generally by high-class Chinese people while the only reason they are not patronized by all the Chinese population is the scale of charges which approximates that maintained in most American cities. Most supplies in the way of disinfectants, cosmetics, perfumery, and the like are now bought locally through importing drug

concerns. With the resumption of normal trade conditions in this part of the world, it is likely that a firm making a specialty of American barber furniture and supplies can build up a good and permanent trade.

SEPTEMBER TRADE BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.

A new export level of \$300,000,000, reached for the first time in September, 1915, gives special interest to the statistics of foreign trade for that month, just published. To enable the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, to comply with the numerous requests for advance information as to the articles making up that trade, the following condensation of tables shortly to appear in the "Summary of Foreign Commerce" for September has been prepared.

Articles and classes exported.	September—		9 months ending September—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
Agricultural implements	\$700,000	\$1,100,000	\$20,600,000	\$10,400,000
Animals:				
Cattle	100,000	500,000	500,000	2,400,000
Horses	1,000,000	8,000,000	3,100,000	75,000,000
Mules		2,000,000	400,000	18,800,000
Brass and manufactures	400,000	5,200,000	4,400,000	31,800,000
Breadstuffs	46,400,000	39,600,000	172,800,000	423,400,000
Carrriages:				
Automobiles	1,500,000	10,700,000	22,700,000	85,600,000
All other	600,000	2,100,000	9,500,000	18,800,000
Chemicals, drugs, etc.	2,400,000	8,400,000	20,200,000	54,200,000
Copper and manufactures	5,800,000	9,600,000	95,600,000	83,600,000
Cotton:				
Raw	5,800,000	28,500,000	542,200,000	307,300,000
Manufactured	3,700,000	8,600,000	34,100,000	71,100,000
Electrical machinery, etc.	1,500,000	2,300,000	15,200,000	17,200,000
Explosives	700,000	18,400,000	4,900,000	84,300,000
Fiber manufactures	500,000	1,600,000	8,200,000	13,200,000
Fish and fish products	800,000	1,400,000	6,600,000	10,700,000
Fruits and nuts	3,000,000	3,800,000	16,200,000	23,100,000
Rubber goods	900,000	2,600,000	8,600,000	15,500,000
Iron and steel manufactures	12,500,000	38,400,000	152,800,000	251,100,000
Leather boots and shoes	1,300,000	5,500,000	12,400,000	29,800,000
Leather manufactures, other	2,300,000	9,400,000	28,700,000	94,600,000
Meats	10,800,000	18,500,000	97,700,000	194,800,000
Dairy products	400,000	1,200,000	2,700,000	15,700,000
Naval stores	600,000	500,000	12,200,000	9,300,000
Oilcake and oilcake meal	500,000	3,200,000	11,800,000	23,000,000
Oils:				
Mineral	13,000,000	12,400,000	108,200,000	106,200,000
Vegetable	800,000	1,900,000	11,200,000	23,800,000
Paints, colors, and varnish	600,000	800,000	5,200,000	6,600,000
Paper and manufactures of	1,500,000	2,100,000	15,200,000	15,900,000
Photographic goods	200,000	600,000	6,700,000	8,600,000
Sugar, refined	3,200,000	3,600,000	5,800,000	24,800,000
Tobacco manufactures	800,000	700,000	5,400,000	4,900,000
Tobacco, raw	3,700,000	6,000,000	32,500,000	39,000,000
Wood, lumber, and other manufactures	4,000,000	5,300,000	65,300,000	40,300,000
Wool manufactures	400,000	2,500,000	3,700,000	25,200,000
Zinc manufactures	2,500,000	3,300,000	3,200,000	21,500,000
Total, including articles not enumerated...	156,100,000	300,700,000	1,487,400,000	2,532,500,000

Principal Articles Imported.

Increased arrivals of raw materials and diminished purchases of manufactures are the leading facts disclosed by an examination of the import statistics for September, 1915. The following table, prepared by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, shows the principal articles and groups of articles imported during Sep-

tember and the nine months ending with September, compared with corresponding periods of earlier years:

Articles and classes imported.	September—		9 months ending September—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
Animals, chiefly cattle	\$2,100,000	\$2,000,000	\$17,300,000	\$13,300,000
Art works	2,300,000	1,500,000	14,200,000	9,000,000
Breadstuffs	1,600,000	2,100,000	25,000,000	14,100,000
Chemicals, drugs, etc	5,000,000	8,100,000	61,000,000	65,200,000
Cocoa, crude	1,000,000	2,200,000	15,500,000	23,400,000
Coffee	6,700,000	9,000,000	78,000,000	79,300,000
Copper in ore	800,000	1,600,000	9,500,000	10,300,000
Copper manufactures	800,000	4,500,000	23,700,000	22,000,000
Cotton:				
Raw	1,100,000	1,600,000	19,200,000	19,900,000
Manufactured	4,100,000	3,200,000	48,000,000	30,000,000
Earthen, stone, and china ware	600,000	700,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Fertilizers	1,000,000	300,000	18,700,000	7,100,000
Fibers:				
Unmanufactured	3,000,000	4,600,000	39,300,000	35,500,000
Manufactured	6,300,000	5,100,000	60,500,000	40,200,000
Fish	2,100,000	1,700,000	12,500,000	11,100,000
Fruits and nuts	2,500,000	2,400,000	35,500,000	27,000,000
Furs, and manufactures of	600,000	1,300,000	8,600,000	8,500,000
Hats and hat materials	700,000	800,000	7,000,000	7,500,000
Hides and skins	6,700,000	11,500,000	63,500,000	60,400,000
India rubber and substitutes	7,200,000	10,300,000	57,300,000	83,400,000
Iron and steel manufactures	2,200,000	1,400,000	22,900,000	14,000,000
Leather, and manufactures of	1,500,000	1,200,000	18,000,000	11,400,000
Meat and dairy products	3,500,000	1,800,000	39,700,000	22,100,000
Oils:				
Mineral	500,000	1,100,000	9,000,000	7,500,000
Vegetable	2,000,000	2,200,000	21,000,000	18,200,000
Paper for printing	1,100,000	1,200,000	9,200,000	10,200,000
Paper and manufactures of, other	800,000	700,000	11,500,000	7,400,000
Precious stones (diamonds, etc.)	600,000	2,400,000	17,800,000	14,700,000
Seeds	2,100,000	2,200,000	15,900,000	19,200,000
Silk:				
Raw	9,500,000	8,500,000	72,000,000	61,000,000
Manufactured	2,400,000	2,200,000	23,800,000	18,100,000
Spices	300,000	300,000	4,300,000	5,000,000
Spirits, wines, and liquors	1,200,000	700,000	12,600,000	8,000,000
Sugar	18,300,000	12,400,000	112,000,000	157,400,000
Tea	2,600,000	3,300,000	12,000,000	14,600,000
Tobacco:				
Unmanufactured	3,700,000	1,300,000	27,300,000	16,100,000
Manufactured	300,000	300,000	3,200,000	3,000,000
Toys	500,000	300,000	5,200,000	2,700,000
Wood and manufactures of	5,600,000	6,000,000	46,700,000	43,300,000
Wool, unmanufactured	3,200,000	4,700,000	53,800,000	68,000,000
Wool manufactures	3,100,000	1,100,000	36,400,000	13,600,000
Total imports, including articles not enumerated	139,700,000	151,200,000	1,410,100,000	1,302,100,000

TINNED PINEAPPLES IN THE BAHAMAS.

[Consul W. F. Doty, Nassau, New Providence, Oct. 27.]

An American corporation operates a factory at Nassau whose output of tinned pineapples during the first 5 years has been as follows:

Year.	Cases.	Value.
1910	43,041	\$44,971
1911	29,532	33,074
1912	27,536	25,201
1913	31,192	30,233
1914	33,070	36,696

The local supply of pineapples being insufficient, the company imported from Cuba 3,315 dozen in 1914, as compared with 31,862 dozen the previous year. Pineapple culture in the Bahamas is being revived.

CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF SALT.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul, Ottawa, Canada, Sept. 20.]

Salt is found in the natural state in some form in nearly all parts of Canada, but the only deposits of present industrial and commercial value lie in the southwestern part of the Province of Ontario. Numerous saline mineral springs are known to occur in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Quebec, but all attempts to manufacture salt from these springs on a commercial scale have been abandoned. Exploration in these Provinces has not disclosed deposits of salt. Saline mineral springs occur also in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and British Columbia, but they are of uncertain industrial and commercial importance. Borings in the west have encountered brines, rock salt, and salt formations, but these have not been exploited.

Table, Dairy, and Packing Salt.

The several plants in operation in the Ontario salt region produce principally table, dairy, and packing salt. One plant is now producing caustic soda and bleaching powder from sodium chlorine in the form of brine, but the allied industries using salt, either directly or indirectly, as a raw material have not been developed to any considerable extent.

Canada produces about 41 per cent of the salt consumed in the Dominion, the balance being imported principally for the use of the coast Provinces and the fisheries. The annual production has shown a small but steady increase during the past 10 years, the production for 1914 being 107,138 tons. The average number of men employed in the salt industry in 1913 was 251, receiving a total wage of \$178,386.

The imports of salt for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, were valued at \$517,610. Of this amount \$237,589 worth came from Great Britain, \$222,245 from the United States, \$21,153 from the British West Indies, \$25,645 from Spain, and \$10,557 from other countries. For the same period the exports of Canadian salt amounted to only \$5,509.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 21.]

Ontario's Beds of Salt Vary in Thickness.

Ontario salt is obtained by the evaporation of brine, which has leached out of rock salt from beds which occur in that part of the Province bordering on Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit River. The salt area in Canada is about 3,000 square miles. The beds are known to vary in thickness. In some wells they occur in thin beds interstratified with dolomite and shale; the combined thickness of all these beds varying from 100 to 200 feet. In other localities, as at Windsor, the salt beds are of great thickness, one alone being 200 feet thick. The average depth at which the salt is found is more than 1,000 feet. There is a gradual increase in depth as one goes farther south.

The production from a few wells has hitherto been sufficient to supply the home demand. The southeast boundary of the salt area is unknown, as no drill records are obtainable from the district along the north shore of Lake Erie between St. Thomas and Chatham.

Discovery of salt in Ontario dates back to 1866. In that year the oil excitement was at its height in western Ontario on account of the

discovery of wells in the United States. A company was formed at Goderich with the object of drilling for oil. This company, with a small capital, commenced drilling on the north bank of the Maitland River.

Enterprise Abandoned Temporarily.

Through a series of layers of grayish limestone of varying hardness a depth of 686 feet was reached without encountering any signs of oil, and the stockholders decided to abandon the enterprise. One of the men interested, however, decided to continue drilling at his own expense, especially since the county council had offered a bonus of \$1,000 and the city a bonus of \$500, provided drilling was continued to a depth of 1,000 feet. His efforts were amply rewarded, for at a depth of 964 feet from the collar of the hole he encountered a solid bed of rock salt, into which he bored for a distance of 60 feet, thus completing 1,000 feet and securing the bonuses.

The shareholders who had previously abandoned the work desired to be allowed to pay up their assessments and were allowed to do so. The capital of the company was increased from \$10,000 to \$14,000, and in September, 1866, pumping commenced. The total capacity of the plant was in the neighborhood of 100 barrels per day. The salt produced found a ready market, so that at the end of the first year's operations the profits were considerable, dividends totaling 51 per cent.

The price then obtained for the salt was \$1.25 per barrel at the works. There are now 12 plants operated in the Ontario region for the production of salt, in all of which the method of evaporating the brine is employed. Up-to-date machinery (mostly American) is now installed at all of the works, and the plants compare favorably with those in the United States.

AMERICAN SAWMILLING IN THE 'BAHAMAS.

[Consul W. F. Doty, Nassau, New Providence, Oct. 27.]

The Bahamas Timber Co. (Ltd.) (American), having a lumber mill and ice plant at Wilson City, Abaco, milled nearly 7,000,000 feet of yellow pine during the calendar year 1914, a smaller amount than usual. Most of this pine was exported to Cuba. The company also made 1,293 tons of ice during the same period, mostly for Nassau. The amount paid to labor, American and local, amounted to \$107,140.

Crown timber lands in the Bahamas estimated at 2,434,661 board feet remain ungranted. On the island of New Providence there is an area of about 7 square miles and at Cocoa Plum Creek, Abaco, another of about 21 square miles bearing yellow-pine trees. Concessions for grants to cut this timber should be made to the Colonial Secretary, Nassau. The Bahamas Government is not disposed to sell small tracts except for building purposes.

A considerable purchase of American wire nails and the introduction of American gongs, with the likelihood of increased sales of American glue and high-grade shirts and collars, are among the results of the trade-extension efforts of the Dunfermline (Scotland) consulate during the past quarter.

SPORTING GOODS ON THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

[Consul General Alban G. Snyder, Panama City, Oct. 11.]

A large amount of sporting goods of various classes is used on the Isthmus of Panama each year, and there is every reason to believe that as time passes and conditions become more settled quite a noticeable increase in many of these lines will follow. For the purposes of this report the "Isthmus" is taken to mean the Canal Zone and the cities of Panama and Colon. Outside of this section little sports equipment is used and there is not likely to be any greatly increased demand in the near future.

Baseball the Most Popular Sport.

From the beginning of the construction days of the canal baseball has proved the most popular sport on the Isthmus. Even in the early days Panama and Colon had fairly good teams which played games with visiting American warships. Shortly after construction work began on the canal a baseball league was organized, composed of clubs from the terminal points and towns along the line, and this league has continued with varying degrees of success ever since.

When the towns along the line were abolished about a year ago it was thought that the old baseball days were over. However, upon the arrival of the various United States Army regiments interest was revived, and last season the Isthmian League was reorganized with eight clubs to play for the governor's pennant. This league was composed of teams from Balboa and Administration on the Pacific side, Lincoln House and Cristobal on the Atlantic side, and the Fifth Infantry, Tenth Infantry, Fort Amador, and Corozal. The season which ended last May with Balboa winning the pennant was one of the most successful in Isthmian baseball. There is now talk of a 12-club league for next season, composed of six civilian and six Army teams, and it has been suggested that the league be divided into two sections, the winners in each playing a series of games for the championship.

Baseball is confined largely to the American element on the canal, but it has also taken considerable hold on the natives, and scores of children are seen playing ball on every available spot in the city limits. The National Institute of Panama has a team, and several prominent stores have organized and equipped teams at their own expense which play under the names of these firms.

Tennis Ranks Second in Popularity.

Next to baseball, tennis is probably the most popular game on the Isthmus. While the active season is about the same as for baseball—from January 1 to June 1—still, unlike baseball, it can be played and is played the year round.

The Isthmian Tennis Association is an organization consisting of eight clubs, with an active membership of 75 to 100. In addition to the association the Young Men's Christian Association owns several courts, bringing the number of those playing tennis up to between 150 and 200. The association holds five monthly tournaments in singles and doubles, in which only representatives of each club can enter, and five large tournaments open to all are also held. Twenty gold medals are given each year, valued at \$90 to \$100.

The association orders tennis goods for its members direct from the United States. The climate here is naturally hard on tennis rackets, and up to about a year ago considerable business was done in shipping rackets to the States for restringing. Now, however, nearly every member of the association restrings his own rackets, and does it as well as it can be done in the factory, and the principal business in this connection at present is in the purchase of gut for this purpose.

Football, Basket Ball, Cricket, and Golf.

Football was started here several months ago and a few games played, but it is hardly reasonable to expect such a violent form of exercise to gain much headway in this climate.

Basket ball and indoor baseball are played during the rainy season in the Young Men's Christian Association clubhouses on the Canal Zone, the season lasting from June 1 to December 31. Most of these clubhouses also have bowling alleys, on which tournaments are held from time to time. All supplies are ordered direct from the United States.

Cricket forms the chief amusement of the large West Indian colored element on the Isthmus, and huge crowds attend these games on Sundays and holidays. Cricket supplies are ordered from England direct as a general rule, although a few houses in Panama handle them to a small extent. Few, if any, of these supplies come from the United States.

Lack of interest and the difficulty in this country of constructing a suitable golf course and keeping it in proper condition have all worked against this game and prevented its being taken up on the Isthmus. Since the arrival of the Army contingent talk of constructing a course has been revived, and something definite may result therefrom in the near future.

Motorcycling, Riding, and Hunting.

Up to a short time ago little motorcycling was done and there were only a very few motorcycles on the Isthmus. An added interest was given to this form of amusement a few months ago by the organization of the Canal Zone Motorcycle Club, with headquarters at Ancon, C. Z. This club is growing rapidly and the members seem to take an active interest in its success. As employees of the Panama Canal get their merchandise in free of duty and at greatly reduced freight rates, the members all order their machines direct from the United States.

Only a few people own saddle horses in Panama, and this form of exercise has never been indulged in to any great extent, being confined chiefly to canal employees (such as the mounted police) who find it necessary in the performance of their duties.

While it is claimed that there is excellent deer, alligator, and bird shooting in the interior of Panama, the nature of the country and the hardships to be encountered are against its ever becoming very popular as a recreation. However, two gun clubs were organized on the Isthmus a few months ago—the Balboa Gun Club at Balboa and the Isthmian Trap and Rifle Club at Cristobal. These clubs have a membership numbering between 40 and 50 and give promise

of becoming very popular. Some fair scores have been made and a large amount of ammunition used.

As far as shotguns are concerned, however, only the cheaper grades of repeating and double-barreled guns are carried in stock by local dealers, and consequently a fair opportunity should exist for selling good-grade guns to the club members. Certainly the formation of these clubs will produce a demand for ammunition such as has never existed in this section before.

Fishing and Yachting.

There is good fishing in the Bay of Panama, but up to the present time this sport has never been indulged in as a pastime to any great extent by Americans or the better class of Panamanians. Such fishing as has been done has been carried on almost wholly by the lower-class natives, who simply fish for the market, using nets or the crudest kind of hand lines. Tackle to meet these simple requirements is carried in stock by the local hardware dealers.

Since the completion of the Gatun Spillway some very fine tarpon fishing has developed at that place. People with experience in this kind of fishing claim that it will eventually rival the famous tarpon fishing of Florida. There has been some talk of organizing a tarpon club, and if it should materialize a demand for good fishing tackle will doubtless follow.

There are splendid opportunities for motor boating and yachting in and around the Bay of Panama, but up to the present time little interest has been taken in the matter. The Balboa Yacht Club has been organized in the last few weeks, and a meeting called to ascertain the names of those desiring to purchase motor boats, yachts, and canoes. It is proposed to adopt some plan for purchasing all of these boats from one company in the United States, in order to get the benefit of the best possible rates.

How the Trade is Supplied.

It will be seen from the foregoing that there is a certain demand here for baseball, tennis, fishing, hunting, and other sporting goods, and present developments seem to indicate that the demand will increase rather than diminish as time passes. As most of these sports are carried on by the American population of the Canal Zone, the greater part of such supplies, as a general rule, will be ordered direct, and I would suggest that manufacturers get in touch with the various organizations mentioned in this report.

However, there will always be a certain outside demand for these goods, and Canal Zone organizations at times have to purchase in the local market when their supplies run short or orders fail to arrive.

For these reasons local firms [whose addresses may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 67796] will always carry certain lines and may increase their stocks should future developments justify it.

Aluminum production in the United States totaled 80 million pounds last year, against 15 million pounds in 1906 and only 83 pounds in 1883. This year's output may reach 100 million pounds, or about half the world's production.

PAPER-STOCK PRICE ADVANCE.

[Extract from Japan Times of Sept. 26 by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama.]

Paper millers are confronted with a difficulty hard to combat and not to be relieved in the near future. Simultaneously with the commencement of the war purchase prices quoted for the East were raised, and every time fresh orders have been placed higher figures have been quoted, but all former rises are easily surpassed in rapidity by the recent advances. Unbleached goods, for instance, have advanced from 6.28 sen (3.13 cents) per pound a fortnight ago to 7.1 sen (3.34 cents), while bleached goods have risen from 8.72 sen (4.34 cents) two weeks ago to 9.8 sen (4.88 cents). Compared with the prewar-order period these figures are a rise of 1.4 sen (0.7 cent), or 24 per cent, in unbleached goods and of 2.4 sen (1.2 cents), or 30 per cent, in bleached goods. Producers, backed up by those war orders, assume a strong attitude and will not contract for longer than a month or two. If pressed to deal in longer periods, they ask extremely high figures and repel all demands.

On the part of millers in this country, the prospect has so far been regarded with optimism rather than alarm, apparently under the impression that the reluctance on the part of producers to part with their holdings at ruling figures is their method to appreciate prices; but when the truth has dawned on them they have begun to negotiate in a hurry with producers.

Foreign paper millers may transfer at least part of their losses to be incurred to buyers, but this can not be done in the case of Japanese paper producers, whose market at present is very dull. Most producers with small means will have to suspend operations.

SIAM'S IMPORTS OF MINERAL OIL.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Sept. 11.]

The imports of mineral oil into Siam for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, totaled 7,669,388 gallons, valued at \$1,115,226 gold, against 6,520,601 gallons, value \$874,123 for the preceding year. Imports included kerosene oil, benzine (gasoline), and liquid fuel.

The kerosene imports for the year under review amounted to 6,167,674 gallons, valued at \$959,785, of which 4,269,714 gallons were imported from Netherlands India and 1,897,960 gallons from United States.

Gasoline to the amount of 310,860 gallons, valued at \$102,837, was supplied by Netherlands India, and 23,944 gallons, value \$7,353, by the United States, while 907,892 gallons of liquid fuel came from Netherlands India and 259,018 gallons from Singapore during the fiscal year 1914-15. The total value of the liquid fuel imports amounted to \$45,251 for 1914-15 as compared with \$28,694 for the previous year.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Metal sheets for making buttons, No. 19199.—A firm in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer that it is in the market for metal sheets for manufacturing buttons. Samples of the buttons desired are forwarded, and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68395.)

Brushes, No. 19200.—An American consular officer in England reports that a company in his district desires an agency for scrubbing, shoe, and stove brushes, both machine and hand made.

Paper, No. 19201.—A firm of stationers and paper dealers in Greece desires to correspond with American manufacturers with a view to purchasing paper for newspapers. Samples of paper with details as to terms, manner of shipment, etc., are solicited. Prices should be c. l. f. destination, if possible, and payment will be arranged to suit sellers. Sample of paper showing quality desired has been forwarded and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68435.) Correspondence may be in English.

Sewing machines, office supplies, etc., No. 19202.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a general agent in that country wishes to act as representative for manufacturers of sewing machines, calculators, typewriters, and office supplies generally. Correspondence should be in English or Dutch. References furnished.

Chloride of lime, No. 19203.—A manufacturer of lye in Spain informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of importing chloride of lime in large quantities. Quality and price are important, and it is suggested that samples be forwarded. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Lumber, iron products, wire, copper, etc., No. 19204.—A commission firm in Argentina has informed an American consular officer that it wishes to secure the representation of American manufacturers and exporters of lumber, iron products, wire, copper, cottonseed oil, fresh fruits, preserved fruits, leather, rice, beans, caustic soda, tartaric acid, and cement. References furnished. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Underwear and hosiery, No. 19205.—An American consular officer in England reports that a manufacturer's agent wishes to communicate with manufacturers and exporters of plain and fancy underwear and hosiery for women and children. C. I. F. quotations, together with catalogues and samples, are requested.

Hosiery, No. 19206.—A report from an American consular officer in Denmark states that a man wishes to correspond with manufacturers of silk hosiery suitable for men and women. Correspondence may be in English.

Upholstering cloth, No. 19207.—An importing firm in Portugal advises an American consular officer that it desires the agency of an American manufacturer of upholstering cloth and velvet. Terms have been cash, with discount after 30 or 60 days. Correspondence may be in English.

Handbags, No. 19208.—An American consular officer in England is informed that a business man desires to communicate with a manufacturer of women's handbags, with a view to securing an exclusive agency. References furnished.

Hosiery, tailors' braids, and cotton goods, No. 19209.—A report from an American consular officer in Denmark states that a man in his district desires to purchase hosiery, tailors' braid, and cotton goods. Samples of the braid desired are forwarded and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 68419.)

Hooks and eyes, No. 19210.—A firm in Portugal, writes an American consular officer, wishes to represent manufacturers of hooks and eyes of celluloid, brass, etc., for shoes. Correspondence may be in English.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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BRAZIL WANTS SAMPLES OF AMERICAN CORN.

[Consul George H. Pickérell, Para, Sept. 25.]

An exposition now scheduled to open in Para on January 1, 1916, is planned to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of this city. The committee having charge of the agricultural section of the exposition, taking advantage of the presence of a large number of people from the interior of the State, most of whom are interested in agriculture, and with the intention of developing a larger interest in agricultural matters, has decided to make a special feature of the development and progress of the corn industry. To this end it addressed the following note to the Para consulate:

The executive committee, desiring to include in the program of the next agricultural exposition a special section containing, besides photographs, samples of the different varieties of corn in the ear most cultivated in the United States and conforming to the standards adopted by that country, has the honor to solicit your official aid and assistance in the sense of obtaining the objects referred to above.

This would seem to present an excellent opportunity to draw the attention of Brazilian farmers to the high quality of American agricultural machinery.

[The First National Exposition of corn in Brazil, which was held in São Paulo last July, was described in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for August 30. Supplementing this article, Consul Maddin Summers has now forwarded four photographs of the exhibition, furnished him by Count Amadeu A. Barbiellini, its organizer. These photographs (which may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its branch offices by asking for file No. 67516) should be of interest in connection with the above announcement of a second corn exposition.]

RESULTS OF FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITY SERVICE.

Consul F. Willoughby Smith, at Batum, Russia, reports that as a result of a cable which he transmitted in August, and which was published as Confidential Circular No. 802, a large order has been placed by a firm in Baku for wire rope for bailing oil. Consul Smith states that he is informed this order will amount to over \$100,000.

WIRE-DRAW RESULTS, BOSTON HARBOR AND EAST RIVER.

The value of the wire drag in finding hidden rocks and shoals is strikingly exemplified by the results recently obtained in the approaches to Boston Harbor and in East River by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

In the approaches to Boston Harbor, a depth of 22 feet was found where $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms was previously charted, north of Outer Brewster Island. Tewksbury Rock was found to extend to the northward with a least depth of 27 feet, about 350 meters from the 8-foot spot. A depth of 27 feet was found between the Rock and Outer Brewster Island, where 29 feet was charted. On Martins Ledge 14 feet was found where 17 feet was charted, and 18 feet where $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms was charted. On Boston Ledge 18 feet was found where 4 fathoms was charted. The shoal off the north end of Point Allerton was found to have less depth than charted. A 23-foot shoal was found east from Point Allerton Beacon. A depth of 26 feet was found on the charted $4\frac{1}{2}$ -fathom shoal in the channel ESE. from Boston Lighthouse.

In East River, in addition to shoals previously reported, nine shoal spots, with depths from 20 to 27 feet, were found to the westward of North Brother Island. In this work, the drag was set at a maximum effective low-water depth of 40 feet. Many shoals were found which were entirely unsuspected. Shoals with less than 23 feet are dangerous at low tide to the deeper draft vessels passing through East River into Long Island Sound.

INVESTIGATION OF DAMAGE BY SMELTER SMOKE.

The Report of the Selby Smelter Commission has been published by the United States Bureau of Mines.

It describes in detail the methods used, some of them new, in determining the contamination of the air and the damage to trees, crops, and live stock by the smoke and fumes from the Selby Smelter, in California, and gives the conclusions of the commission on the methods used by the smelter company to prevent injury. The bulletin is of especial interest to metallurgical companies, municipal or State boards of health, and persons investigating damage by smelter smoke.

Owing to the expense involved in the preparation and publication of this bulletin and the limited printing funds available, it has been necessary to place a price of \$1.25 on the work. Orders should not be sent to the Bureau of Mines, but should be addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

MERCHANDISE NEEDS IN AUSTRALIA.

[Sydney Herald, Oct. 2.]

General merchants were fairly busy yesterday, and on the whole prices were firm. There was a strong inquiry for harvesting requisites and hay forks, and hay rakes moved out freely. Fencing wire was still lightly stocked. No. 8 black was almost unobtainable, and the few small parcels available were worth \$80.30 a ton. To arrive shortly \$79 would have been accepted. The *Marie*, which is now in Melbourne, carries a shipment of wire for Sydney.

BRITISH DYESTUFF SITUATION.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, Oct. 16.]

By reason of the lack of fast colors, gray has become very fashionable in England, and the large quantities of dark-brown colors on hand before the war are said to be responsible for the present vogue of browns. Scarlets, pinks, and blues are reported to be very scarce, and in some instances fabrics containing such colors are sold without guarantee as to fastness.

There appeared recently in the local press the following notice in regard to the shortage of dyestuffs:

The old-fashioned processes that have been brought into use again owing to the scarcity of synthetic colors often give good enough results, but a great drawback is that they take up so much time. Take as an example the dyeing of a black all-wool serge. Before the war the dyeing was done in one bath with acid black in an hour to an hour and a half. Now the pieces have to be treated to two baths, first with bichromate and then with logwood, and the time of dyeing is doubled. The slower methods and the shortage of labor combined have reduced the output of some houses as much as 40 per cent. There is consequently much congestion and delay, which affect manufacturers and merchants very seriously by retarding the circulation of their capital and exposing them to the risk of a falling market.

At a recent meeting of color users held in Manchester a committee was formed to keep in touch with the British and Swiss sources of supply and to cooperate with the board of trade in obtaining the maximum amount of dyestuffs.

SWISS DYE MAKERS' PROFITS.

[Manchester Guardian, Oct. 29.]

The report of the Society of Chemical Industry, Basel, the largest of the Swiss color firms, shows a net profit (after providing \$535,000, as against \$175,000 last year, for depreciation, and placing \$195,000 towards a new pensions fund) of \$496,000, as against \$350,000. It is proposed to pay 16 per cent, as against 6 per cent and previous dividends of 10 per cent. Stocks are valued at \$462,000 only, as against \$1,324,000 last year, due to the demand for dyestuffs being so brisk that virtually no stocks are now held. The Clayton Aniline Co., Manchester, which is controlled by the Basel concern, is stated to have been very well occupied throughout the year, and the financial results have quite come up to expectations. A holding has been acquired in the Swiss Soda Works, Zurzach, a company formed for the manufacture of soda ash and caustic soda. This is the first undertaking of its kind in Switzerland, previous supplies of these chemicals having been obtained from Germany.

CALAIS LACE MAKERS ADVANCE PRICES.

[Consul J. B. Milner, Calais, Oct. 15.]

Since August 21 the great majority of Calais lace manufacturers have increased their prices, either by adding a certain percentage to the old prices or reducing former discounts; in some instances both price and discount are changed. In all these modifications the meaning is an increase of the market value of machine-made laces here of at least 10 per cent. The reason for these advances is found in the higher price of thread, a considerable demand for the kinds of lace sought by American import houses, and a shortage of help in the factories.

BRAZILIAN COFFEE EXPORTS IN SEPTEMBER.

[Consul Charles L. Latham, Santos, Oct. 6.]

During September 1,015,725 bags of coffee were shipped from the port of Santos, against exports totaling 1,125,295 bags in August and 535,295 bags in July. Of the September shipments 300,000 bags (of 132.38 pounds each) went to New York, 242,042 bags to New Orleans, 74,377 to Havre, 65,792 to Stockholm, 60,797 to Genoa, 55,965 to Amsterdam, 37,176 to Goteborg, 35,791 to London, 33,000 to Christiania, 27,657 to Marseille, 27,250 to Malmo, 16,934 to Buenos Aires, 15,753 to Copenhagen, 10,000 to Alexandria.

In the last week of the month the ruling freights for coffee were: To London, per 1,000 kilos (2,204.6 pounds), 110 shillings (\$26.75) and 5 per cent; to Havre, per 900 kilos (1,984.2 pounds), 120 francs (\$23.15) and 10 per cent; Genoa, per 1,000 kilos, 140 francs (\$27) and 10 per cent; Marseille, per 1,000 kilos, 145 francs (\$28); Bordeaux, per 900 kilos, 120 francs (\$23.15) and 10 per cent; ports in Spain, per 1,000 kilos, 130 francs (\$25.10) and 5 per cent; New York and New Orleans, per 60 kilos (132.38 pounds), \$0.75 and 5 per cent; Amsterdam, per 1,000 kilos, 110 and 130 shillings (\$26.75 and \$31.65) and 5 per cent; Stockholm, per 1,000 kilos, 150 shillings (\$36.50) and 5 per cent; Buenos Aires and Montevideo, 2.30 milreis (about \$0.58) per bag.

[Brazil's exports of coffee for the past two years were given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 30, 1915.]

ARGENTINE NOTES.

[Revista de Economía y Finanzas, Sept. 20.]

The total exports from Argentina during the first eight months of 1915 show an increase of 45 per cent in quantity and more than 50 per cent in value over the exports in the corresponding period of 1914. The gain in wheat alone was 160 per cent, the shipments amounting to 2,400,000 tons, or 1,470,000 tons more than in the first eight months of last year. Barley shipments increased 150 per cent, and increases of 40 to 80 per cent were shown in the export figures for other cereals and for lard, tallow, and jerked beef. This gain in the exports of foodstuffs is credited to the abnormal conditions in Europe.

[Review of the River Plate, Sept. 24.]

The recommendation of the Public Works committee authorizing the Central Cordoba Railway to construct a branch line to Centeno station was recently approved in the Senate.

The Province of Buenos Aires Water Works Co. is shortly to improve the water service of Adrogué by installing a reservoir tank of 2,400 cubic meters' capacity, a new well, two pumps, and a new machinery house, at an estimated cost of 143,441 paper pesos [\$63,114 American money].

Consular Trade Conferences.

Vice Consul Eugene Nabel, of Amsterdam, is on leave of absence in the United States, his address being 174 Broad St., Providence, R. I.

BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 18.]

The exports from British Columbia to the United States, invoiced through the consulate general at Vancouver, for the three quarters ended September 30, 1915, including returned American goods and shipments to the Philippine Islands, amounted to \$18,158,852, as compared with \$10,454,091 for the corresponding period of the previous year, an increase of \$7,704,761. There was a decrease of \$489,460 in the value of returned American goods. The principal exports were:

Articles.	1914	1915	Increase (+) or decrease (-).
Animals	\$16,648	\$29,241	+ \$12,593
Animal products	619,040	404,115	- 214,925
Bonds		1,161,349	+1,161,349
Building material	68,729	44,375	- 24,354
Bullion	1,612,195	1,850,657	+ 208,462
Fish	430,709	278,871	- 151,838
Grain, and products of	21,727	109,244	+ 87,517
Hardware and machinery	16,873	15,783	- 1,090
Household goods	203,627	206,460	+ 2,833
Junk	46,745	73,640	+ 26,895
Ores	1,602,484	6,523,534	+4,921,050
Provisions	352,401	313,425	- 38,976
Rubber		630,116	+ 630,116
Wood manufactures	4,021,635	5,622,451	+1,600,816
Other	150,677	147,941	- 2,736
Returned American goods	9,163,490	17,379,202	+8,215,712
Exports to Philippines	1,253,388	763,928	- 489,460
Exports to Philippines	37,213	16,722	- 21,491
Total	10,454,091	18,158,852	+7,704,761

The increase in exports of ore reported was due principally to the closing of the consular agency at Nelson, British Columbia. The invoicing of shipments from that district was diverted to the offices at Fernie and Vancouver.

NEW OLIVE-OIL PRICES IN SYRIA.

[Consul General W. Stanley Hollis, Beirut, Syria, Sept. 20.]

A small quantity of the olive oil of the new crop has been offered for sale on the local markets. This new oil always has a slightly strong flavor, which always disappears after the oil has been kept for some time. People prefer to buy oil for present consumption from the last crop and to wait some time before buying from the new crop. It was expected that the price of olive oil would continue to advance on account of the unfavorable crop this year, chiefly caused by climatic conditions and by the dense swarms of locusts which devastated the country, but, in view of the stringent economic situation of the country, the olive growers are more or less inclined to dispose of their crops as soon as possible, and to have cash rather than to keep their oil in stock.

The present market prices of olive oil are as follows: First quality, 16 piasters per oke (19.9 cents per pound); second quality, 14.20 piasters per oke (16.11 cents per pound). The piaster quoted is the market piaster, valued at 0.035306 in American currency.

NOTES FROM SOUTH INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Sept. 21.]

Madras Port Trust Revenue and Expenditures.

From the administration report of the Madras Port Trust for 1914-15 it appears that the receipts of the trust from all sources were \$407,887, against \$495,572 (of which \$16,222 was the port fund contribution) in 1913-14. This represents a decrease of 17.7 per cent, or, if the port fund contributions be excluded, of about 14.9 per cent in the year under review.

The gross expenditure out of revenue, not counting contributions made by revenue to capital or repayment of debt, was \$306,980, or 75.26 per cent of the gross receipts; the corresponding percentage for 1913-14 was 62.97, and the average for the past 28 years 69.80. Excluding from working expenses the interest on loans, which in the year under review was \$125,686, actual working expenses came to 44.44 per cent of the regular harbor earnings, against 41.97 per cent in 1913-14.

Factories in Madras.

According to the report on the working of the Factories Act in Madras Presidency during 1914 the number of factories increased from 354 to 391 and the operatives from 78,764 to 81,217. The past four years witnessed a great increase in the number of women operatives, of whom there were 14,175 in 1914 as against 6,468 in 1911; the number of girl operatives increased from 773 to 1,926 in the same period.

The additional factories registered comprise 15 rice mills, 2 railway works, 6 oil presses, 7 cotton ginning, 1 jute mill, 1 tannery, 1 leather works, 1 tile works, and 3 printing presses. No factories were established developing entirely new lines of industry. As in 1913 a number of decorticators have been installed in cotton-ginning factories for shelling groundnuts, and in addition a small soap works has been added to one rice factory. The new spinning mill of the Madura Mills Co. was completed and over 60,000 spindles were at work at the end of December.

Of the total number of operatives in all factories 5,353 were employed in Government and local fund factories, an increase of 475 over 1913, while the remainder were employed in privately owned factories, 23,063 being in cotton and 1,839 in jute spinning and weaving mills.

Monazite Sand in Travancore.

Local newspapers have lately been directing attention to the possibilities for commercial development of the large deposits of monazite sand in Travancore, South India, the statement being made that Brazil has hitherto been supplying the gas-mantle industry with this sand, but that the war has dislocated the trade and supplies are being sought from other countries as well. The production of monazite in British India in 1913 was valued at over \$200,000. Most of the output was exported in a raw state. It is used for the extraction of thorium and carium, two rare earths upon which the brilliancy of gas mantles depends. A European firm recently purchased land in South Travancore for the express object, it is said, of carrying on an export trade in monazite. It is now announced

that under a recent order of the British Government the export of monazite sand from British India except to the United Kingdom is prohibited.

Proposed Commercial Museum at Madras.

The South India Chamber of Commerce at Madras is desirous of having opened in this city a commercial museum similar to the proposed British India Mercantile Bureau to be established at Calcutta, details of which were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for August 9, 1915. It is suggested that exhibits obtained for the Calcutta collection should be duplicated for Madras, as the latter city is far away from Calcutta, and also the addition of a museum to the Bureau of Industrial Information started here recently would, the South India Chamber maintains, be a valuable help to the trade of this port.

SPHAGNUM MOSS AS A SURGICAL DRESSING.

The present need for enormous quantities of hospital supplies in Europe has directed attention to many articles that heretofore have been put to little use in surgery. One of these is the common bog moss, *Sphagnum cymbifolium*, which is now being employed as an absorbent dressing on the Continent. A short description of the method of gathering and preparing the moss, transmitted by Consul Augustus E. Ingram, of Bradford, England, was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for September 15, 1915; as supplementing this earlier article, the following clippings from the Manchester Guardian should be of interest:

Another interesting outdoor industry—or, rather, occupation, for most of it is voluntary work—has received an impetus through the war. This is the gathering and preparing of sphagnum, or bog moss, for surgical dressings. Many tons of this moss are sent from collecting depots in Scotland to the military hospitals in Edinburgh. Smaller quantities even find their way from the English lake district to London hospitals. Sphagnum moss, in the ordinary course of events, becomes the chief constituent of peat. Proprietors of grouse moors, however, do not at all object to the removal of large quantities of this moss, as in it are laid the eggs of the heather beetle, which causes so much disease in heather. There are bright and dark green kinds of sphagnum, but the best sort for hospital dressings is pink. It has long, soft, close-growing fibers and resembles chenille or the ravellings of a thick carpet.

Points of Superiority.

The reputation of sphagnum moss as a surgical dressing has spread from the British Isles. Many cases full of these dressings have been used in hospitals at Boulogne and elsewhere in France and by French and Belgian Red Cross hospitals, while some have gone as far as Malta, Alexandria, Gallipoli, and Serbia. In some particulars the sphagnum moss is much superior to other dressings, and its properties are valuable in the treatment of compound fractures due to gunshot wounds. It has greater springiness than cotton wool, and the patients like it better for that reason. It has the power not only of absorbing discharges, but of diffusing them throughout the whole pad, while cotton wool absorbs quickly, but passes the discharge straight through to the bandages and bedclothes. The moss dressing also disinfects, possibly by the air in its numerous fine tubules. Sphagnum has long been known to gardeners as a moist moss in which to grow some plants, especially orchids, but it is chiefly during the present war that extensive use has been made of it by surgeons in the dressing of wounds.

While, in the United States, large quantities of bog moss are used by florists and nurserymen for packing plants and trees, so far as can be ascertained it is not used in this country for dressings.

UTILIZING SOUTHERN SCRUB PALMETTO.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The scrub palmetto (of which there are several varieties, the most common being *Serenoa serrulata*) is a veritable pest in Florida, where vast areas are densely covered with the growth. Heretofore it has been put to little economic use; now, however, a process has been perfected whereby mattings, binder twine, and the like are made from the fiber extracted from the leaves. This fiber takes dye readily, and its wearing qualities are said to surpass anything yet found in the way of floor coverings. Machines are set up in the palmetto fields and the leaves fed into them while green.

An aspect of the new industry that is of considerable value, aside from the manufacture of floor coverings, is that the twine made from the leaves is easily handled by grain binders, knots being tied without difficulty. For the manufacture of twine, however, the species known as the "cabbage" palm (*Sabal palmetto*) is employed, as it yields a fiber 3 to 5 feet long.

[Samples of the palmetto products (rug, binder twine, etc.) may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Ask for file No. 766.]

Native American Species.

A standard reference work states that the "cabbage" palm (*Sabal palmetto*) is native to the maritime parts of the United States from Florida to North Carolina. It attains a height of 40 to 50 feet and has a crown of large palmate leaves, the blade 1 to 5 feet in length and the footstalks long. The flowers are small, greenish, and in long racemes; the fruit black, about as long as a pea pod, and inedible. The leaves are made into hats, mats, etc., and are also largely used for thatch. The terminal bud or "cabbage" is often eaten. The wood is extremely porous, but is preferred to every other kind of wood in North America for wharves, as it is very durable and not liable to be attacked by the teredo. The streets of Savannah and some other Southern cities are lined with these trees.

A second American species, the "saw" palmetto (*Serenoa serrulata*), occurs from South Carolina to Florida. It has a short stem and numerous clustered fan-shaped leaves, while its berries have certain medicinal properties. A still smaller species is the dwarf palmetto (*Sabal adansonii*), a stemless plant which bears a cluster of leaves a foot or two long.

Not Commercially Exploited.

So far the scrub palmetto of Florida has been regarded as of little economic value. The leaves have been cut and shipped abroad (mainly to Germany), where they are turned into the "artificial palms" so extensively used for permanent decorative effects. Exports of palmetto leaves to Germany from the Florida customs district had an aggregate value of \$11,650 in the year ended June 30, 1914. The shipments to other States in this country, of course, are very much larger. The fiber has been used to some extent for mattress stuffing, and upon special order has been utilized in mixing plaster.

While the plant contains some tannic acid, the commercial production of tanning extract has so far not been attempted on a large

scale because of the competition of other materials more easily and cheaply obtained. Bees evince a fondness for the flowers of the scrub palmetto, but the resulting honey is dark colored and has a peculiar taste.

SWEET WINES FOR SOUTH CHINA.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, Sept. 18.]

It is still an open question, apparently, among the larger wholesale liquor dealers in Hongkong whether a reasonably large market could be formed among the Chinese for sweet wines at a moderate price. At present there is a fair sale of this class of wines, but the trade is by no means important.

Of all the sweet wines, the Chinese are particularly partial to port, and the curious fact is that the best port in the local market is sold to the Chinese almost exclusively. The average quality of port is, however, the usual kind sold. The Chinese are likewise taking to a so-called champagne of the cheap kind, and these are about the only two sweet wines consumed by the Chinese. The European trade is not large, although considerable quantities are sold to ships; but these wines can be taken out of bond in Hongkong and do not properly enter into the local market consumption.

The natural sweet wines come from Spain and Portugal, and Marsalla, Muscatel and the like bring a price of from \$5 to \$6 gold per dozen quarts. Italian vermouth, which is classed among sweet wines, is by far the most important in bulk imported and brings about \$5.50 gold per dozen liters (liter=1.056 quarts). In regard to port, the prices vary a great deal, or from \$5.50 to \$25 gold per case of 12 quarts, duty paid.

An Australian vermouth is being introduced into the Hongkong market since both the French and Italian product have increased a great deal in price, but it remains to be seen whether this Australian wine will prove popular. A light claret has a good sale, particularly among the Portuguese residents of the colony. There is no market for hocks, but light white wines are being used somewhat more extensively than formerly.

Under the Hongkong liquor ordinances, 1909 and 1911, the following duties are in force and are included in the prices quoted. Export orders and ships' stores are duty free, and for such these duties will be deducted if shipped in quantities of not less than 2 gallons.

	Gold.
Champagnes and sparkling wines.....per dozen quarts or 2 dozen pints..	\$2. 52
Port, sherry, and Madeira.....do.....	2. 02
Other still wines and home-bottled clarets.....do.....	1. 26
Brandy.....do.....	3. 53
Whisky.....do.....	2. 52
Gin.....do.....	2. 52
Rum.....do.....	1. 26
Stone gin.....do.....	3. 99
Vermouth.....do.....	1. 58
Beer, stout, and clder.....per dozen quarts..	. 20
Do.....per dozen pints..	. 10
Do.....per dozen splits..	. 05
Liqueurs (except curaçao, D. O. M., chartreuse, and kümmel)	
per dozen quarts or two dozen pints..	3. 53
Curaçao, D. O. M., chartreuse and kümmel.....do.....	4. 41

AMSTERDAM'S SALES TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 8.]

The declared value of the exports from the Amsterdam consular district to the United States during the quarter ended September 30, 1915, was \$4,659,350. For the corresponding period of 1914 the value was \$7,818,565; of 1913, \$6,549,854; of 1912, \$6,192,825. The lower value this year is more than accounted for by a slump in tobacco exports. In the September quarter of 1914 the declared value of the tobacco shipped from the Amsterdam district to the United States was \$4,654,758; this year, in the corresponding three months, it was only \$966,336—a difference of \$3,688,422.

It should be noted, however, that tobacco shipments during July—September last year were more than twice the usual value for the third quarter, the value in previous September quarters being about \$2,000,000. The very great value last year is explained by the statement from tobacco dealers that when the war broke out all tobacco belonging to Americans which was in Amsterdam was immediately sent to the United States.

Reasons Assigned for Falling Off in Tobacco.

The relatively small export of tobacco to the United States in the quarter just closed was due to several causes, as explained by dealers. Tobacco bought by Americans in March, April, and May, 1915, was sent immediately to the United States instead of being divided into shipments during July, August, and September, as in other years. This immediate shipment last spring accounts for the fact that in the June quarter the value of the tobacco exports to the United States was 25 per cent more than in the June quarter of 1914.

Other reasons for the lower value of the tobacco exports are the relatively small crop and poor quality of the tobacco which was marketed—this being the growth of 1914. Prices for the varieties bought by Americans were about the same as last year, though the quality was inferior. Dealers state that Americans take the best qualities, and that this year the quantity thereof was too small to supply their usual orders. One dealer says that there has not been a crop for 30 years so "bad" as the one sold this season; but the promise for next year is said to be excellent on account of very favorable reports from the crop now growing in the Dutch East Indies.

The Diamond Business.

A comparison of the chief export article, in value, shows the declared value of diamonds sent to the United States in the September quarters of 1915, 1914, 1913, and 1912 to have been \$2,673,526, \$1,102,738, \$2,775,115, and \$2,872,342. As 1912 and 1913 were normal years, these figures indicate that the diamond business with the United States has practically resumed its usual volume.

The relative condition of the industry will be shown most clearly by a tabulation of the diamond exports to the United States during the first three quarters of the past four years:

Period.	1912	1913	1914	1915
First quarter.....	\$2,046,201	\$3,579,080	\$1,935,620	\$1,202,003
Second quarter.....	3,600,794	4,052,984	2,099,711	1,642,368
Third quarter.....	2,872,342	2,775,115	1,102,738	2,673,526
Total, 9 months.....	8,525,337	10,407,179	5,138,069	5,517,897

The unusually large exports during the first nine months of 1913 were due to the hastening of shipments to avoid the increased American import duty on diamonds taking effect in October of that year; the fourth quarter's diamond exports amounted to only \$663,679.

Value of all Exports for Nine Months.

The total declared value of all exports to the United States during the first nine months of this year was \$13,284,800. During the corresponding period of 1914 it was \$20,574,377; of 1913, \$22,523,671; of 1912, \$20,485,847. The decline of \$7,000,000 and \$9,000,000 this year, in comparison with 1912 and 1913, can be attributed to the smaller exports of diamonds and tobacco. The difference in declared value between this year and 1914 is due to a decline of \$4,100,000 in tobacco, of \$550,000 in hides and skins, of \$500,000 in coffee, and of various smaller amounts in other food products. Coffee entirely disappeared from this consulate's export records for the September quarter of 1915. On the other hand, several articles have increased in value of export this year, such as seeds, paint, paper, and Haarlem oil.

AGRICULTURAL ADVANCEMENT IN THE CAUCASUS.

[Experiment Station Record, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Oct., 1915.]

In response to the increasing demand for assistance in agricultural research and education, the viceroy of the Caucasus, Russia, appointed in 1913 a commission of the leading farmers and specialists to consider the more efficient correlation of the various agricultural agencies. Their report when submitted recommended the concentration of all educational, experimental, and extension work under the Board of Agriculture, with the establishment of agricultural stations at suitable points, the employment of district agriculturists, and a system of advisory work by Government specialists.

A permanent commission was also suggested, with the chief of the agricultural section of the Caucasus as president and with representatives from the Tiflis Botanical Gardens, the Caucasian Sericultural Station, senior specialists of the Board of Agriculture, officials connected with the various land-improvement and educational services, members of the civil veterinary section, and the Imperial Agricultural Society of the Caucasus as members, the commission to be supplemented by the addition of district agriculturists, superintendents of agricultural establishments, other specialists, and in general of all persons competent in agricultural affairs, as desired. A reference section and statistical and editorial bureau were projected.

The early opening of the Tiflis Polytechnic Institute with an agricultural section, the establishment of schools for intermediate agricultural education, and the introduction of practical agriculture into the elementary school system were also advocated. In 1913 about \$500,000 was expended for agricultural advancement in this region, of which \$35,000 was for agricultural organization, \$300,000 for experimental work, \$10,000 for live-stock improvement, \$25,000 for aid to agricultural societies, and \$20,000 for destruction of insects and for exhibitions, meetings, collection of statistics, and other activities.

A NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL OF SALESMANSHIP.

[Consul General Evan E. Young, Halifax, Oct. 22.]

With the object of increasing the efficiency of clerks and salesmen a School of Salesmanship is being promoted by the Retail Merchants' Committee of the Halifax Board of Trade, and from the support thus far promised by the retail merchants of the city it appears certain that the proposal will soon become a reality.

According to the present plans classes will be held at the Nova Scotia Technical College, located in this city, two or more evenings a week according to the number of clerks and sales people enrolled. All the classroom work will be held in the evening so as to obviate any encroachment upon the clerks' working time. The course will extend over a period of three months and, in addition, textbooks will be furnished for home study and at the lectures demonstrations will be given in the art of selling. The only expense devolving upon those attending the school will be in the purchase of the textbooks, and it is thought that this amount will not exceed \$5. An effort is now being made to obtain the services of a competent instructor, and from the support thus far promised by the local merchants no difficulty is anticipated in providing the funds necessary to finance the undertaking.

The subjects to be dealt with in the course of study include: The Profession of Salesmanship; Methods of Marketing; Health and Appearance; Self-Study and Development; Study of the Customer; Successful Reasoning; Study of Goods or Service; The Conducting of Sales; Retail Salesmanship; Selling to Dealers; Selling of Specialties; Long-Range Salesmanship; Sales Organization and Management; Credits and Collections; Laws that Salesmen Should Know; Correct and Faulty Diction; Selling One's Own Services.

MOTOR-TRUCK DEMONSTRATION IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Sept. 28.]

The representative of an American motor-car company who is now traveling in South America brought to Asuncion on September 22 the first motor truck that has ever been in the Republic of Paraguay. The Banco Agricola, a Government institution, paid the expenses of bringing the truck from Buenos Aires.

Numerous demonstrations of the truck were given, more especially to show its possibilities as a freight carrier and hauler on the bad roads of the country. The President of the Republic, the Ministers of War and Interior, and the Director of Public Works rode on the truck over one of the worst roads and were very favorably impressed. In addition to the actual demonstrations of the truck, motion pictures of its performances were exhibited at the most popular cinematograph for several nights. These pictures attracted considerable attention and have been the subject of no small comment.

It is probable that several of these trucks will be purchased here. There is a plan on foot to form a transportation company using motor trucks to serve districts not on the railway or river, whose sole means of communication at present consists of bullock carts and pack animals.

AMERICAN CYCLES FAVORED BY COLOMBIA.

[Consul Ross Hazeltine, Cartagena, Sept. 10.]

Adverse street and road conditions in the Cartagena consular district have greatly retarded the sales of bicycles and motor-driven vehicles. The very high cost of gasoline and lubricating oil has also tended to restrict imports of motor cycles. The city streets are narrow, and, except for a mile of paved streets, are in poor condition. There are no outlying roads suitable for excursions.

Gasoline costs \$0.40 a gallon retail, and \$0.36 wholesale. Lubricating oil sells at the same price. Both are manufactured locally. In spite of these factors, however, the importations of bicycles, motor cycles, and accessories through the port of Cartagena during the last calendar year were valued at \$15,359, as against \$6,742 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914. American manufacturers enjoy about two-thirds of the trade. The customhouse statistics for these periods were:

Countries.	Fiscal year June 30, 1914.	Calendar year 1914.
United States.....	\$4,607	\$11,533
Great Britain.....	1,278	2,761
Germany.....	857	760
France.....		299
Total.....	6,742	15,359

Duty Adds Relatively Small Amount.

The import duty adds a relatively small amount to the original cost. According to item No. 855 of the import tariff schedule, the duty on bicycles, tricycles, and velocipedes, with or without motors, is \$0.05 a kilogram levied on the gross weight. Including the surtax of 2 per cent of the duty, the total duty is equal to \$2.31 per 100 pounds. Thus the duty on a bicycle amounts approximately to \$1.25, if packed lightly, while the duty on a motor cycle is \$7.50 to \$8.

Bicycles are usually sold by the dealers for cash, while motor cycles are purchased on monthly installments. Bicycles for this district should be most fully equipped. The outfit should include lamp, bell, coaster brake, mud guards on both wheels, and a complete tool kit. Motor cycles should be quoted with extra parts.

There are only four motor cycles in this city, and only one active agency. Three of the machines are American made and the fourth is of Italian make. Correspondence and advertising matter should be in Spanish. Weights should be quoted, gross and net, in kilos. Prices may be quoted in American currency.

[A complete list of dealers in and importers of bicycles and motor cycles in Cartagena may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 66528.]

Through the efforts of Consul Augustus E. Ingram, American transparent celluloid sheets have been placed on the Bradford market, a firm in that English city expressing entire satisfaction with the business connection thus formed.

PORTUGUESE DEMAND FOR AMERICAN TOOLS.

An American company which exports machines to various foreign countries informs the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that it has learned, through correspondence with Mr. Jorge A. Malheiro, Engineer in Chief of the Portuguese Railways, of an exceptional opportunity for the sale of American tools abroad.

The management of the Portuguese Railways is planning to relocate all its shops, and part of the plan is to be carried out during 1916. It will replace many of its machine tools with new ones, and intends to order them in the United States.

Mr. Malheiro, the Engineer in Chief, suggests that American manufacturers of machine tools would find it advantageous to send catalogues of their goods, and expresses the opinion that there has not been sufficient effort in this country to gain such markets abroad as are offered by Portugal and other smaller countries. The important public service that he represents has not received a single catalogue of any American industry since the opening of the present war, and yet it would gladly look to this country for its supplies.

The American company that has been dealing with the Portuguese official recommends that catalogues be sent to Mr. Malheiro, whose address is Santa Apolonia, Lisbon, and that they should be in Portuguese or French if possible, preferably Portuguese. "At least," it says, "the letters accompanying the catalogues, if the latter are in English, should be in French."

THE BRADFORD WOOL EXCHANGE.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claibourne, Bradford, England, Oct. 12.]

Every Monday and Thursday hundreds of members of the Bradford Exchange meet to buy and sell wool, to arrange the details of transportation and delivery, to contract for fabrics as well as raw materials, and to discuss the various exigencies of this industry. Groups of men gather on the corners and in the streets as often as on the floor of the Exchange. There are 2,250 subscribing members, consisting of wool merchants, top makers, combers, spinners, dyers, manufacturers, machine makers, and hundreds of business men from all parts of the world where wool is used or produced. Within a radius of 15 miles from Bradford are produced, in addition to every variety of woollen and worsted, great quantities of mohair, alpaca, cashmere, cotton and silk fabrics, carpets, rugs, blankets, tapestries, plushes, and velvets.

According to a report of the local Chamber of Commerce the 600 square miles adjacent to Bradford support a population of a million and a quarter inhabitants, more than one-half thereof being engaged in or dependent upon the wool and its kindred industries. Bradford is the commercial and distributing center for a network of neighboring manufacturing towns, all engaged in the sale or manufacture of textiles.

Inasmuch as four-fifths of Great Britain's wool manufactures are carried on in the West Riding of Yorkshire, a great bulk of this trade is ultimately transacted on the Bradford Exchange, where practically all vegetable and animal fibers known to the textile industry may be bought or sold.

TRADE EXTENSION IN DUTCH WEST INDIES.

[Consul H. C. von Struve, Curaçao, Sept. 30.]

Owing to the smallness of the field and to the fact that practically all lines of merchandise for which there is much demand are regularly imported from the United States, the opportunities for trade extension in Curaçao are usually so unimportant that their publication as trade opportunities is not justified. The consulate's work in that line is therefore generally confined to putting American dealers and manufacturers in direct communication with local dealers and agents. During the quarter just ended an American piano manufacturer was thus put in touch with a local agent, and as a result one piano has been sold and the line is being actively advertised.

A local dealer in clothing states that, due to the advice of this consulate, he has succeeded in obtaining in the United States a quality of flannel underwear that takes the place of similar goods heretofore imported from a European house, and that he will in future handle the American article, as he finds that it compares favorably in price and quality with the European brand. He states that he encountered considerable difficulty in persuading the American manufacturer to make up the garments in the exact shape that he wanted, as the manufacturer at first insisted upon making them up as they are desired in the American market.

SATISFACTORY SOUTH AMERICAN SALES REPORTED.

A salesman for an American company, who has had considerable previous experience in South America and who is making an extended trip through the most important cities of the South American Republics, in writing to Commercial Agent E. C. Porter, of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, made some interesting statements.

This salesman finds that American salesmen in South America are well satisfied with the results which they have been securing. The results have been especially satisfactory in hosiery and underwear, where large orders have been obtained, as the stock in these lines in the South American Republics has been depleted during the last 15 months. There is relatively little importation at the present time from Europe, although salesmen from Spain, Italy, England, and France were met.

An advertising campaign of French and English goods is being conducted and is being directed against all other products, but the merchants do not seem to be particularly impressed.

Satisfaction is expressed by merchants in regard to American goods in so far as quality is concerned, but they complain about the higher prices and packing.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Dextrine, maize oil soap, No. 19211.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of dextrine and maize oil soap. Samples and prices f. o. b. American port should be submitted. Cash will be paid for the goods before shipment from American port. Cable address may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Textiles, No. 19212.—An importing firm in Paraguay informs an American consular officer that it desires to receive samples and prices of piece goods. Linen goods must be in bolts of 18.30 meters, and cotton goods, such as percales, etc., should be in bolts of 35 to 40 meters. Correspondence, literature, and full information should be in Spanish. Measurements in metric system. Samples of textiles wanted are expected, and when they arrive may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices.

Hardware, jewelry, trunks, etc., No. 19213.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a large exporting firm in the Netherlands desires to establish commercial relations with exporters of hardware, cheap jewelry, trunks, lamps, cutlery, and enameled goods.

Linoleum, No. 19214.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that a firm in his district wishes to act as agent for a manufacturer of higher-class linoleums, especially inlaid and parquet inlaid. Correspondence may be in English.

Buttons, dress trimmings, ribbons, laces, etc. No. 19215.—A report from an American consular officer in the United Kingdom states that a man desires to represent, on a commission basis or otherwise, exporters of buttons, dress trimmings, ribbons, laces, and other goods suitable for the dry goods trade. References given.

Machinery, No. 19216.—A firm in France informs an American consular officer that it desires catalogues and quotations on knitting machinery. Quotations on a basis of cash with order, f. o. b. New York, or preferably c. i. f. port of destination, are desired at once. Correspondence should be in French, if possible.

Brass and raw cotton, No. 19217.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a man has requested to be placed in communication with manufacturers desiring agents for brass and raw cotton. References given. Correspondence may be in English, Italian, French, or German.

Electrical goods, No. 19218.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a business man in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of electrical goods.

Buffalo horns, No. 19219.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a foreign consular officer desires names and addresses of American exporters of buffalo horns. Communications giving the average market prices will be appreciated.

Steel cylinders, No. 19220.—A business man in the United States informs a commercial agent of the Bureau that he desires to communicate with manufacturers of steel cylinders or tubes for holding carbonic gas.

Machinery, No. 19221.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a representative of an Australian firm is in the United States and desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of confectionery machinery.

Machinery, No. 19222.—A representative of a firm in Argentina, who is now in this country, informs a commercial agent of the Bureau that he wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers of machinery for cleaning, etc., hides, sheepskins, and wool, and sewing grain bags.

Machinery, No. 19223.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to correspond with manufacturers of machines for boring holes in ivory buttons.

Brushes and brooms, No. 19224.—A representative of a firm in Switzerland, who is now in this country, informs the Bureau that he desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of brushes and brooms; also the materials used in the manufacture of these products.

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SWEDISH-AMERICAN LINE TO START THIS MONTH.

[American Minister Ira N. Morris, Stockholm, Oct. 18.]

Mr. Broström, Minister of Marine, states that it is the intention of the Swedish-American Steamship Co. to begin sailings during the month of November. The vessel which the company has acquired from the Holland-America Line and which now bears the name *Potsdam*, will hereafter be known as the *Stockholm*. The Government here is much interested in the prospects of this line, and it is to be hoped that it will have all the success that it merits by inaugurating direct passenger and freight service between Sweden and New York.

[Dispatches relating to the plans for the Swedish-American line were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 25, Aug. 20, and Mar. 2, 1915.]

CONSULAR TRADE CONFERENCES.

Consul General W. Henry Robertson, of Buenos Aires, Argentina, reports that he will be in the United States on leave from November 19 to December 31, 1915. From November 19, for one week, his address will be care of the Branch Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in New York, and for the remainder of the period his address will be 806 Charles Street, Fredericksburg, Va.

More Boats for the Banana Trade.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris, Havana, Nov. 4.]

The banana trade between Central America and the United States is to be further facilitated by the operation of five additional steamers which the United Fruit Company has just taken over from the Elder-Fyfe Line. These boats were formerly devoted to the service of supplying Central American bananas to English markets.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPPING AUSTRALIAN WHEAT CROP.

[Report of Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Melbourne, Sept. 29.]

Subject to favorable weather conditions continuing until the crop is harvested, it is estimated by the authorities in the various States that the yield of wheat in Australia this year will approximate 145,000,000 bushels. The wheat yield in the several States is, at this date, officially estimated as follows:

	Bushels.
New South Wales.....	60,000,000
Victoria.....	40,000,000
South Australia.....	25,000,000
Western Australia.....	20,000,000

The official estimates are considered to be optimistic by the large exporting firms, who express the conviction that the total wheat yield will not exceed 125,000,000 bushels, against 25,000,000 bushels in the year 1914-15, 106,600,000 bushels in 1913-14, 94,880,000 bushels in 1912-13, and 73,894,000 bushels in 1911-12.

The wheat-shipping scheme, arranged by the Commonwealth Government, by which the chartering of steamers for the transportation of wheat and other produce oversea has been placed in the hands of two prominent Australian firms, who will be remunerated by a commission not exceeding 1½ per cent. Whatever freight is paid, the commission bears no charge beyond the maximum of 4d. (8 cents) per ton, so that if the freight rates are high the chartering brokerage will not amount to 1½ per cent. Shippers, however, will be charged a chartering commission of 5 per cent to reimburse any expenditure incurred by the Government, but after the expenses are covered the residue will be paid to the States from which shipments have been made. From the present outlook it is not considered likely that sufficient ships can be chartered to take away the estimated surplus available for export within a reasonable period. Thus there will be only one channel through which the charters are to be arranged, whereby, it is considered, competition for tonnage will be eliminated. The agents appointed by the Government are now endeavoring to effect charters both locally and oversea with the hope of submitting a definite statement by October 15. The Freight Arrangements Act, assented to September 13, empowers the Federal Treasurer to borrow up to £100,000 (\$186,650) from the Commonwealth Bank at 5 per cent per annum to finance the chartering of steamers or sailers. It is provided that the act shall come into operation during the coming wheat season, but shall not continue in force after the expiration of six months from the end of the present war.

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES' ADDRESSES.

American consular officers have frequently voiced the request, through the pages of COMMERCE REPORTS, that firms in the United States having branches or agents in foreign countries should notify the consul in whose district these representatives are stationed. Consul Roger C. Tredwell, of Leghorn, Italy, now makes the further suggestion:

American manufacturers should communicate the names and addresses of their branches or agents in foreign countries to all of the consular officers in such countries. The advantage to be gained by consular officers having on file a list of all the representatives of American trade in the country to which they are assigned is so great that it requires no further exposition.

NEW PACIFIC LINE BENEFIT TO PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, Sept. 27.]

An official announcement has been made regarding the new Pacific steamship company which has been formed in Holland under the name of the Java-Pacific Line, and the first steamer of which will be dispatched from Batavia, Dutch East Indies, on December 15, for San Francisco. There will be four boats on the run, giving practically monthly sailings. The average capacity of these boats will be from 10,000 to 12,000 tons. The Java company's boats will carry a limited number of first-class and steerage passengers. The boats of the other lines will probably carry only steerage.

The companies interested in the new Pacific service are the Java-China-Japan Line, the Nederland Royal Mail Line, and the Rotterdam Lloyd Royal Mail Line. The first-mentioned company will furnish two of the boats and the two others one each. If the business warrants, other boats will be added later.

The inauguration of this service is no doubt due in some considerable measure to the efforts of the Government of the Philippine Islands, as it was necessary to relieve the difficulties which resulted from the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail by inducing other lines to include Manila among their ports of call. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce has likewise been deeply interested in the extension of the Java Line to the Pacific Coast.

Ten or twelve years ago, the Java-China-Japan Company considered the advisability of extending its service to Vancouver, but it was deemed then that the conditions did not warrant an Oriental-Pacific connection. Following the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail, and as a result of the abnormal freight rates, it was decided that all interests would be materially benefited by the new service.

[Previous announcements regarding this line were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 5 and Nov. 10, 1915.]

EFFECTIVE TRADE-PROMOTION WORK.

Vice Consul Mahlon F. Perkins reports that as a result of Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 13111 an order has been placed by one of the most important Chinese printing establishments with an American firm for a large rotary lithographing press. Before the arrival of the press, and at the request of the managers of the corporation, an arrangement was effected whereby the American firm was to supply an expert for the period of one year for the purpose of placing the press in operation and for the instruction of the native employees. At the time of making this arrangement it was intimated that an order would be placed for a second machine. The consular officer is now informed that this second order has been given in recognition of the satisfactory results of the first order.

It is understood that the corporation having made contracts for the printing of a large order of Government bonds and several million dollars' worth of provincial bank notes is now operating the original press about 15 hours a day, and that at this rate it will take about 15 months to complete its contracts, necessitating an order for the second press. In order to meet the demands of its increasing business the corporation contemplates the purchase of one or two additional large printing presses in the coming year. It is understood this order will be placed with American manufacturers.

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY CHARTS IN POST OFFICES.

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office and Treasury Departments by which the charts and nautical publications of the Coast and Geodetic Survey will be brought to the attention of the public in the principal seaport cities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and at some cities in the interior. A framed copy of the most important chart of the locality will be placed in a prominent position in the lobby of the post office in each city, together with a placard bearing information as to how the charts and publications may be obtained.

The results obtained by the survey are published in charts on various scales, including sailing charts, general charts of the coast, and harbor charts; tide tables, issued annually in advance, giving the time and height of the tides at all the principal ports in the United States and at some foreign ports; coast pilots, with sailing directions covering the navigable waters; notices to mariners, issued weekly and containing the latest information necessary for safe navigation; catalogues of charts and publications; and special publications on geodesy, terrestrial magnetism, and other subjects pertaining to the work of the survey. A special publication descriptive of the work may be obtained on application to the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce.

Places Where Charts May be Purchased.

The charts, coast pilots, and tide tables are sold at the office of the Survey in Washington, at the suboffices of the Survey, and by agents in the principal cities. Prices are given in the chart catalogue, which is supplied to applicants without charge. Lists of publications available for free distribution may be obtained from the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce.

Framed charts will be displayed, as announced, at post offices in these cities: Augusta, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Bath, Eastport, Portland, and Rockland, Me.; Boston, Fall River, Gloucester, and New Bedford, Mass.; Newport and Providence, R. I.; Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven, Conn.; New York, N. Y.; Atlantic City, N. J.; Wilmington, Del.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Baltimore, Md.; Washington, D. C.; Norfolk, Newport News, and Richmond, Va.; Wilmington, N. C.; Charleston, S. C.; Savannah, Ga.; Jacksonville, Key West, and Pensacola, Fla.; Mobile, Ala.; Gulfport, Miss.; New Orleans, La.; Galveston, Tex.; San Juan, P. R.; Cleveland, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.; Los Angeles and San Francisco, Cal.; Portland, Oreg.; Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.

The suboffices of the Survey, at which there are stocks of charts for sale, are: Boston, Mass., Customhouse (office of commercial agent); New York, N. Y., room 403, Customhouse; San Francisco, Cal., rooms 308-10, Customhouse; Seattle, Wash., room 202, Burke Building; Manila, P. I., Intendencia Building; Galveston, Tex., room 19, Cotton Exchange Building; New Orleans, La., 1020 Hibernia Bank Building (office of commercial agent).

Vessels of the Lighthouse Service are supplied with copies of charts covering their districts. Charts may be obtained from them in places where there are no agencies, or where the agents are out of the particular chart desired.

ARGENTINA'S PROPOSED INTERNAL LOAN.

[American Ambassador F. J. Stimson, Buenos Aires, Oct. 14.]

La Prensa, in yesterday's issue, states that the Argentine Government is preparing for an internal loan of 120,000,000 pesos, Argentine paper (\$50,952,000, United States currency), through the Bank of the Nation, which will be authorized to suggest to its depositors the purchase of the Government 5 per cent notes with all or part of their moneys on deposit, at a price of 90, to net the investor 5.56 per cent. Arrangements will then be made for loaning the necessary cash to the depositors on the security of these same bonds.

Another article on the subject appeared in the Standard, one of the English papers of this city, this morning. It said, in part:

There will be bonds of the nominal amount of 120,000,000 pesos at the disposal of the Government if the projected budget for next year should be sanctioned by Congress, and it has been already approved by the budget committee of the Chamber of Deputies. The following plan for the disposal of the bonds has been devised and will be submitted to Congress: The Bank of the Nation is to offer to sell to its depositors and to those of the private banks the bonds of the Credito Argentino Interno held by the Treasury and those that are intended to be issued at the price of 90 per cent of their nominal value, and the Bank of the Nation will be authorized to hold the bonds and to collect the coupons on account of the purchasers; the National Government will, so long as the bonds are left with the Bank of the Nation for safety, guarantee the punctual payment of the interest, and will also undertake to repurchase the bonds at 90 per cent at any time if the persons entitled to them should desire to reconvert them into cash.

The Bank of the Nation would be paid one-half per cent for taking care of the bonds and receiving the coupons and paying the sums received to the owners of the bonds. The private banks charge their customers 1 per cent for those operations. It has not been stated whether the bank commission is to be paid by the Government or by the bondholders.

[An article on the Argentine national budget and its preparation was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 6, 1915.]

SPAIN SEEKS AMERICAN STEEL FOR ITS KNIVES.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 28.]

Steel knives are extensively manufactured in Spain, and one of the manufacturers, whose principal office is in Seville, is seeking supplies of steel for their manufacture on account of a shortage of raw material. He informed the American consul at Seville that he used annually about 100 tons of steel, and had no objection to paying cash against documents for materials purchased. He desires to import through Seville or Valencia. His factory is in Alicante Province.

The consul believes that the United States will be depended upon to supply the steel needed during the present war. Knives manufactured here are of special shape and size and the manufacturers of this country are known to produce a superior quality of goods. It is doubtful if American-made knives could take the place of the Spanish article, unless the American manufacturer will secure samples of those made here and make exact duplicates. There is a call here also for penknives and cheap safety razors.

[The consul has forwarded samples of the steel strips required by Spanish knife manufacturers, which may be seen by interested persons at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Two of these are plain flat steel bands, and the others have a slightly wedge-shaped cross section. The address of the inquirer for steel may also be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67910.]

MARKET FOR SHOE POLISHES IN COSTA RICA.

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San Jose, Oct. 12.]

Formerly the Continent furnished most of the shoe polishes imported into Costa Rica, especially blacking, but since the war this class of merchandise has been supplied exclusively from the United States.

To become really popular, the blacking should be put up in small tins that could be retailed profitably at the equivalent of 3 cents gold. Fully 90 per cent of the demand is for a black wax polish without a liquid cleaner. Tan shoes are not commonly worn and white shoes are seldom seen except in the cities of Limon and Puntarenas. Shoe polishes pay duty at the rate of \$4.22 gold per 100 pounds gross weight, and in packing the tare should be kept as low as possible.

Brand Names—Terms.

If a trade name is proposed for this market it would be wise to select some simple word, preferably Spanish, that would soon become well fixed in the minds of the consumers. Too much stress can not be laid on the importance of selecting names easily pronounced by Spanish-speaking people.

The leading importers here are listed with Dun's and with Bradstreet's and the local banks can also give credit ratings. These dealers often buy for cash to obtain liberal discounts, especially when the selling qualities of a staple article are well known to them. At other times important dealers obtain three to six months' time and pay interest on the account at the rate of 6 per cent per annum.

Sales Methods.

Any manufacturer planning a real campaign in the markets of Spanish America ought at least to have in his employ a good Spanish correspondent and be equipped with descriptive literature in the Spanish language giving best prices and terms for export; but the most effective way to win this trade is to work the field through properly qualified, Spanish-speaking salesmen.

The exclusive-agency plan for a staple article of almost prime necessity is not always to be recommended. The element of the agent's personality, his financial standing, and his energy and general business capacity are such important factors in the introduction of a new article in a foreign field that it is often inadvisable to thus center all chances of success on one individual or firm. The more important staple articles of trade sold in this district are not, as a rule, distributed by a single individual or firm, but are handled by all importers dealing in those lines, who work directly with the factory or else through a reliable commission house in the country of origin.

[Consul C. Donaldson, Port Limon, Oct. 19.]

Port Limon Uses Light Dressings.

Practically all of the shoe polish and dressings imported into the Port Limon district are brought in by large wholesale houses that import general merchandise (such as are known in the United States as department stores), of which there are two doing business here at present. Owing to climatic conditions in this section white canvas and white kid or buck shoes are much worn, also the lightweight

tan leather shoe, and the bulk of the polish imported is for use on such footwear.

The most practical way to promote trade in the Port Limon district is to send good representatives with samples; the next best way would be to send samples direct to the local importers. The English language is in general use here, especially among wholesalers, the largest houses being American and German. The smaller merchants use the Spanish language almost exclusively. Therefore, correspondence should be in English and Spanish, as local firms generally use both languages.

Transportation facilities are good. There are direct lines of steamers weekly from New York, Boston, and New Orleans, which make the trip in 8 to 10 days, including all stops at way ports.

[A list of importers of shoe polishes and the names of three banks in the San José consular district and the addresses of the two Port Limon firms that control the bulk of the trade there, as well as two smaller concerns, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file Nos. 67907 and 68452.]

BURMA USES INCREASING NUMBER OF BOILERS.

[Consul Maxwell K. Moorhead, Rangoon, Burma, Sept. 20.]

The imports of boilers into Burma, although not large, show a considerable increase in the past three years. During the year ended March 31, 1913, boilers were imported to a value of \$62,380, of which the United Kingdom supplied 76 per cent, the United States 17 per cent, and Germany 5 per cent. The next year imports increased to \$124,730, 72 per cent being supplied by the United Kingdom and 24 per cent by the United States. The year ended March 31, 1915, showed only a small decrease notwithstanding the depressed condition of trade due to the war, the total imports of boilers being valued at \$122,060, of which the United Kingdom supplied 81 per cent and the United States 18 per cent.

Annual Imports of Boilers, by Countries.

The values of imports of boilers into Burma, by countries, during the three years ended March 31, 1913 to 1915, in United States currency were:

Countries.	Value.		
	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
United Kingdom.....	\$47,940	\$89,080	\$99,947
Straits Settlements.....	370	3,800	
Germany.....	3,200	810	980
United States.....	10,790	30,950	21,140
Total.....	62,380	124,730	122,050

Burma is not an industrial or manufacturing country, the cultivation of rice being by far the most important occupation of the inhabitants. Boilers are used, however, by a few rice and sawmills, as well as oil refineries. A few of the rubber estates and miners also use them.

[Lists of engineers and users of boilers, including oil refineries, rice millers, mines, sawmills, railways, electric-power companies, and rubber estates, in Burma, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67,815.]

EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES FROM THREE GERMAN DISTRICTS.

[Consul General Henry H. Morgan, Hamburg, Sept. 30.]

Hamburg's Shipments to This Country and Island Possessions.

The declared value of exports from the Hamburg consular district to the United States and its island possessions for the nine months from January 1 to September 30, 1915, compared with those for the corresponding periods in 1914 and 1913, were:

Exports.	Jan. 1 to Sept. 30.		
	1913	1914	1915
From Hamburg:			
Raw materials.....	\$8,800,067	\$7,972,251	\$201,424
Manufactured goods.....	6,525,081	5,910,326	690,595
Food products.....	1,572,377	1,527,456	62,038
Miscellaneous.....	1,747,472	923,288	152,025
Total to the United States.....	18,734,997	16,239,321	1,106,082
Total to Philippine Islands.....	1,479,317	1,045,850	65,653
Total to Porto Rico ¹	101,274	90,955	6,344
Total to Hawaiian Islands ¹	24,285	63,338	.....
From Luebeck to United States.....	311,176	236,637	8,619
From Kiel to United States.....	10,088	12,348	1,090
From Kiel to Philippine Islands.....	619	.....	.....
Grand total.....	20,661,756	17,788,449	1,187,788

¹ No exports from Luebeck and Kiel to Porto Rico or Hawaiian Islands.

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin, Oct. 1.]

Declared Exports from Berlin Consular District.

Declared exports to the United States from the Berlin consular district for the quarter ended September 30, 1915, compared with the quarter ended September 30, 1914, were:

Places of destination.	1914	1915
United States.....	\$3,535,897	\$774,963
Philippines.....	54,790	3,300
Porto Rico.....	195	.....
Hawaii.....	135	.....
Total.....	3,591,023	778,263

[Consul Alfred W. Donegan, Magdeburg, Sept. 30.]

Magdeburg's Exports to United States for the Quarter.

The total exports to the United States from Magdeburg for the quarter ended September 30, 1915, according to invoices certified at the American consulate, were valued at \$130,422. The amount fell somewhat below that for the quarter ended June 30, 1915, which was \$195,794. The exports to the United States from this district for the past seven months were principally leather gloves. These constituted 98 per cent of the total for the quarter just ended. No shipments were made to the Philippines, Porto Rico, or Hawaii during the quarter.

Export figures for the September quarters of the past five years and for the first nine months of each of these years show the large

falling off in the trade of this district with the United States this year. These figures are:

Year.	Jan. 1 to Sept. 30.	July 1 to Sept. 30.	Year.	Jan. 1 to Sept. 30.	July 1 to Sept. 30.
1911.....	\$8,397,414	\$2,245,606	1914.....	\$9,047,500	\$1,673,061
1912.....	9,035,224	3,782,733	1915.....	2,060,663	130,422
1913.....	10,240,687	3,728,757			

Of the nine months total this year, about 70 per cent was composed of potash and salt shipments in January and February, before the potash embargo, and about 20 per cent of leather glove shipments.

THIEVES' MARKET IN SAN LUIS POTOSI.

[Consul Wilbert L. Bonney, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Oct. 18.]

The so-called thieves' market in San Luis Potosi is one of the curious and characteristic institutions of the city. It consists of a series of small booths along the side of the public market; in these booths every article known to the hardware, plumbing, and novelty trades may be found at second-hand in every conceivable state of preservation or decay. The name of the market is no reflection upon the proprietors nor upon their patrons, but is an implication that thieves sell in this market their miscellaneous plunder.

Here are found tools and implements, knives and pistols, plow points, door knobs, bottles, hinges, valves and elbows, chain, bridle bits, razors, religious books from the old Barcelona press, cheap jewelry, and occasionally odd pieces of table silver. In fact, any bit of portable and nonperishable merchandise may be bought or sold in the thieves' market. It constitutes a serious competition for the hardware stores, for if the householder finds himself in need of a door knocker, a hinge, or a pane of glass, his first resort is to this market. Many parts of implements from the plantations find their way to this market. The proprietors are said to deal in more valuable goods, such as precious stones and metals, but these are not shown to the public nor offered to strangers. Antique pieces of brass work, china, and silver may sometimes be found, but these should be purchased with the customary caution.

There are no fixed prices. The dealer gets what he can, depending largely upon the patience of the customer. The pawnshops turn over to this market cheap articles in hardware and jewelry which are not redeemed or sold at auction. Carpenters and cabinetmakers find here their odd pieces for repair work, such as locks and keys, fancy screws, and hinges. American goods are sometimes seen, particularly barber's supplies, cheap watches, buttons, and safety razors. Imported articles in San Luis Potosi are always expensive, and articles of metal, even of native manufacture, are relatively high; such articles are not discarded when worn, but find their way to this market and are used again and again. It is a sort of clearing house of commodities. To an extent it supplies the lack of specialized stores and prevents waste.

FISH INDUSTRY OF SPAIN.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Sept. 13.]

The fishing industry is one of the largest and most important of the local trades of Andalusia, and the Revista Comercial, official organ of the chamber of commerce, recently gave some particulars concerning it that will undoubtedly prove of interest to American dealers and importers.

This article states that the annual production of fish in Spain amounts to 102,000,000 pesetas (approximately \$19,686,000) and that 150,000 men are employed, which means the support of 750,000 persons. There are 586 steam and 15,194 sailing vessels engaged in the industry, also 800 curing and drying factories; the value of vessels, nets, and other paraphernalia being approximately 32,000,000 pesetas (\$6,176,000). Included in this are the Government taxes on the 27 fishing grounds.

Annual Production of Tinned Fish—Comparison with France and Italy.

The annual production of tinned fish in Spain is said to be 3,500,000 cases of 10 tins to the case. The Revista Comercial states that the pack of Portugal is about 1,500,000 cases and that of France 1,000,000 cases. Spain is thus the principal producer of this product among these three nations, which practically have a monopoly of the industry in Europe.

One of the largest packers in the Seville district reports that the statements appearing in the Revista Comercial are by no means exaggerated, and that the pack of Spain is considerably larger than the combined packs of France and Portugal. He states that the impression prevalent throughout the world that the French and Italian packs are large is probably due to the fact that large quantities of Spanish fish products are shipped abroad bearing French and Italian labels. According to his statements, practically no fish of Italian pack is shipped out of that country, being all needed for home consumption, and the foreign shipments consist almost entirely of Spanish-packed products bearing Italian labels. This is also largely true of the French products, though a certain quantity of French-packed fish is exported. This packer states that he personally packs in his establishment five well-known brands of French sardines, and also packs several brands with Italian and German marks. In his opinion, the estimate as given in the Revista Comercial rather underestimates than overestimates the Spanish pack.

The article in the Revista Comercial continues by stating that the value of the fish packed amounts to 17,000,000 pesetas (\$3,281,000) for the raw fish, to which must be added the amount expended for oil, tins, labor, etc., which will make the value of the annual Spanish pack when ready for the market approximately 40,000,000 to 45,000,000 pesetas (\$7,720,000 to \$8,685,000) per annum.

Quality of Spanish Goods—Export Markets.

Although in past years the industry has suffered considerably because of the low quality of the oils employed and defective preparation and packing, these faults have been remedied, and it is said that Spanish goods now compare favorably with the finest qualities produced elsewhere.

Although the exportation of Spanish tinned fish has not grown as rapidly as might have been hoped for by the producers, it is said that they are making headway in the American (probably meaning South American) markets and in the Orient, even though a considerable quantity is sold to French merchants, who relabel the tins and reexport them as French products. The article says:

Italy would be the natural market for Spanish fish products, but the Spanish packers feel that the import duties there are practically prohibitive and that lowering of these rates is necessary to the development of the industry, especially as Portuguese packers have an advantage over their Spanish competitors because of there being no import duty on tins or solder in Portugal, whereas in Spain packers must pay 14 pesetas (\$2.70) for each 100 kilos (220.46 pounds).

Spanish Market for Codfish and Salmon.

The Spanish people, especially the poorer classes, are large users of fish products, especially the dried codfish, herring, and sardines, the first named being imported in considerable quantities.

At the present time there is a shortage of codfish in Seville, and merchants state that at least 4,000 bales of 50 kilos (110.23 pounds) each could be sold if the fish were now there.

Codfish that comes there for the summer trade usually is secured from Iceland or Norway, as it is harder and better withstands the summer heat, which sometimes reaches 120° in the shade at Seville. The Iceland quality now sold on that market is received c. i. f. Seville at about 50s. (\$12.15) per bale of 50 kilos (110.23 pounds). For the winter trade Newfoundland and Labrador fish is satisfactory.

One firm, whose address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices (refer to file No. 67127), desires a sample shipment of 50 to 100 bales of codfish, in order to test the quality, and the manager states to the consul that he will guarantee payment of 50 per cent of the value of such a sample shipment but could not make outright purchases until he was aware of the quality of the goods. The usual purchase of this firm is said to be about 1,000 bales per month.

There is also a considerable trade in tinned salmon here, and the addresses of persons who are interested in the importation of these products may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67127.

THE SARDINE INDUSTRY IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 8.]

Sardines are found chiefly in the Atlantic Ocean, forming great schools or banks extending from the coast of Ireland to the Canary Islands. They are also found in considerable quantities in the Mediterranean, probably coming from the Atlantic, attracted by the higher temperature of the water. However, sardine fishing is of less importance on the Mediterranean shores of Spain than on the Bay of Biscay and the Gulf of Cadiz, where the principal factories for canning sardines are located.

The supposed difference between sardines found in various parts of the world has been much disputed, but repeated investigation has demonstrated that no generic difference exists, as the sardine is not a sedentary fish and inhabits the ocean at large, migrating from coast

to coast in search of food and mild waters. This explains its appearance and disappearance, both dependent upon the movement of warm currents, and its particular abundance on the coast of Galicia. Near Finisterre, in close proximity to the Gulf Stream, the sardine is usually first seen.

Various Sizes of Sardines.

The length of the sardine varies from $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 8 inches and the weight from 0.84648 to 2.39836 ounces. Sometimes a few are found measuring as much as $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, but this is extremely rare and none exceed 10 inches. The sardine is known by many names, according to locality and development. In Galicia those of 9 centimeters (3.54 inches) in length, weighing less than 26.4555 pounds a thousand, are called "parrocha," and when 6 or $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches long "mediano" or "medianillo"; they are really known as sardines only when they reach the size of from $7\frac{1}{4}$ to $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, weighing from 132.2773 to 154.3236 pounds a thousand. There is also a class of small sardines, found in Cantabrian as well as Galician waters, called "anchoa." This variety does not exceed $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 inches and ordinarily weighs 0.17637 or 0.21164 ounce.

Where and When the Sardine is Found.

The sardine is always found in the superficial waters of the Mediterranean, where fishermen encounter it during all seasons; the quantity, however, varies considerably with the season. During the spring the sardine appears only at brief intervals, in small masses; during summer and autumn it is always abundant (especially when the sun is bright), except when the weather is cold, excessively hot, or stormy. During periods of calm the sardines are numerous and their stay prolonged. They remain near the coast and their first appearance in considerable quantities is in February or March. This is generally in the Gulf of Lyon on the coast of Cataluna, after which they are found on the shores of Rosellon, Languedoc, Toulon, and farther east.

In the waters of the North Atlantic, on the contrary, the sardine is entirely absent during the winter, not appearing until March or April to any noticeable extent. This fish is encountered on the shores of the Iberian Peninsula, later in the southern part of the Gulf of Gascony, and so on farther north—always influenced, as in the Mediterranean, by climatic conditions and also, it has been found, by the configuration of the ocean bed.

The sardine in both waters derives alimentation from minute bodies adapted to the smallness of its mouth and teeth. Protozoans are its principal food. In the Mediterranean sardines are found permanently around the capes covered by what is called "planicie continental," which is rich in neritas, and near shores where plankton abounds.

No Danger of Reduction in Supply.

Much attention has been given to sardine culture, but taking into consideration the rapid multiplication of this fish there would seem to be no danger of its being exterminated or even appreciably reduced. An indication in support of this belief is found in the fact that the sardine multiplies perennially in the Mediterranean and is subject to constant taking by net. The danger of persecution from

larger predatory fishes is obviated in a measure by nature, because the eggs, as well as the sardines themselves in their early stages of development until about 1 inch in length, are transparent, passing unnoticed by their enemies.

Statistics of Industry—Number of Fishermen and Factory Operatives.

Thousands of men in Spain are engaged in sardine fishing. The approximate figures, according to the latest statistics, are: Galicia, 27,000; Cantabrian coast, 11,000; Andalusian coast (Cadiz and Huelva), 5,000.

The Spanish industry of canning sardines in oil is carried on most extensively in Huelva, Galicia, Santander, Asturias, Vizcaya, and Guipuzcoa. About 30 years ago it began to develop, following the French methods, but its progress was not very rapid until within the last 15 years, during which time the evolution in the manner of fishing and the use of all modern appliances have tended to bring the industry to its present prosperous condition. The best machinery and apparatus are now employed at the canning factories.

According to recent statistics of the Centro de Información Comercial del Ministerio de Estado, Spain produces annually, on an average, more than 1,500,000 cases of sardines in oil of 100 tins to the case. More than two-thirds of these are exported from Galicia alone, Vigo being the chief port of shipment.

The sardine industry of Santander, as carried on in Castro-Urdiales, Laredo, Santona, Requejada, San Vicente de la Barquera, Camillas, and Suances comprises about 300 sailboats and 90 steamers of an approximate value of \$198,000, which, with various other appliances employed, represents a capital of \$270,000, employing 2,500 fishermen in addition to 1,500 operatives in the canning factories.

In the Province of Huelva, the principal ports where the sardine industry is located, are its capital, Huelva, Isla Cristina, and Ayamonte. In this latter port alone the production of canned sardines varies between 2,000 and 3,000 metric tons (metric equals 2,204.62 pounds) annually. This merchandise is almost entirely exported to France, Germany, England, and Italy, although some consignments are made direct to South America. The four countries mentioned reexport in large measure these sardines. The packers themselves can not do this for lack of steamship lines. The number of operatives employed in the canning fluctuates between 800 and 1,000 females and 400 and 500 males, including in these figures numerous children. It is estimated that about 3,000 metric tons of sardines, valued at \$270,000, are packed in salt, mostly for consumption in Spain.

In the naval station of Ferrol, including San Sebastian, Bilbao, Santander, Gijon, Ferrol, Coruna, Villagarcia, Pontevedra, and Vigo, there are 410 sardine canning and export firms; in the Cadiz station, embracing Huelva, Cadiz, Algeciras, Cueta, Malaga, Melilla, and Teneriffe, there are 80; and in the Cartagena station, which includes the extreme points of Alicante and Barcelona, 32 such firms are established.

Exports to Chief Purchasing Countries.

During 1913 Spain exported 19,926 metric tons (metric ton equal 2,204.62 pounds) of sardines, valued at \$5,824,304. The countries to

which the greater part of this article of food was exported are given, with amounts purchased, in the following table:

Countries.	Value.	Countries.	Value.
France	\$1,767,327	Italy.....	\$345,903
Germany.....	895,672	Cuba.....	262,531
Argentina.....	817,954	United States.....	208,950
Portugal.....	374,050	Chile.....	183,453

The total value of sardines exported from Spain, according to official statistics, during 1914 was \$3,511,049, the itemized official statistics as to countries of destination not being available yet.

(The chief sources of the foregoing report were: La Industria Sardinera en Espana, 1915; Resúmenes Mensuales de la Estadística del Comercio Exterior de Espana, December, 1914; Estadística General del Comercio Exterior de Espana, 1913.)

STEEL MANUFACTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Sept. 15.]

For two or three years certain steel products especially designed for use by mines and railways, including bars of all sections, fencing standards, and light rails, have been manufactured in a modest way in the Transvaal. The material used is altogether scrap iron and steel, of which there is a large accumulation in the country, principally acquired from the South African railways. The two companies in the Transvaal now manufacturing these steel products are the Union Steel Corporation of South Africa, at Vereeniging, and the Dunswart Iron & Steel Works (Ltd.), at Dunswart, near Johannesburg, both of which seem to find a good market for their output, which, of course, is relatively small.

According to a report by the Government Mining Engineer, it has been decided to put the Union Steel Corporation on a sounder commercial basis in order to acquire further plant and machinery. These additions will include a 15-inch mill, a 22-inch cogging mill, and additional melting and reheating furnaces.

At present the capacity of the plant is restricted by the sluggish working of the hydraulic press which presses and cuts the ingots into bars. When the large cogging mill starts work these delays will cease. With the new plant it is hoped to roll rails up to 35 pounds and produce about 10,000 tons annually. Furnaces and automatic machines for making bolts, nuts, and rivets are now being started. The works now employ about 70 white and 100 colored laborers.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

SOUTH WALES TRADE NOTES.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, detailed as Vice Consul at Swansea, Wales, Oct. 14.]

Imports of Sugar.

Referring to an article from the Swansea consulate on Loaf Sugar, published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for September 3, 1915, the duty given therein on sugar exceeding 98° polarization as \$0.4455 per hundredweight (112 pounds) will be raised to \$2.27 a hundredweight if the proposed budget is passed. It may also be stated that no sugar may be purchased from abroad at present, except by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, London. The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated in his budget speech that although he was raising the duty on sugar to \$2.27 a hundredweight, the Royal Commission were at the same time reducing the basis price by \$0.48 to \$0.72 a hundredweight so that the increased duty which will be chargeable to the consumer will be only \$1.21 a hundredweight or just over \$0.01 on the pound. The Royal Commission desire it to be known, under date of October 13, that the proper retail prices for sugar under ordinary circumstances at present are as follows: Granulated, \$0.08 a pound; white Javas, \$0.075 a pound; and cubes, \$0.12 a pound.

Reduction of Swansea's Lighting.

The Swansea Corporation Highways Committee has decided on a substantial reduction of the town's lighting, by which it is estimated about \$20,000 a year will be saved. Nearly 1,000 lamps will be left unlit under this scheme.

Settlement of Wage Dispute in Flannel District.

At a recent meeting of the masters and workmen of the Drevach and Velindre districts, Carmarthenshire, an amended offer of 12½ per cent war bonus was accepted by the workmen. This advance, together with several other mining concessions, will raise the workers' wages to a point nearly 25 per cent above the previous standard, and will mean a large increase in the cost of producing Welsh flannels, for which these districts are well known.

New Welsh Industries.

In the work of promoting industries to find work for the unemployed, it may be mentioned that a quarry has been opened at Bettws-y-coed, and that in the near-by valley a macadam quarry has been started. In the same district the residents have started to make pill boxes in an attempt to capture for the future some of the trade which had been in Continental hands.

The Iron Trade.

During the past week the blast furnaces have been busily operating and the product of pig iron was heavy. Steel works generally were flourishing. Iron and brass foundries, together with the engineering and fitting shops, were so short of regular hands that they found it increasingly difficult to cope with orders.

Zinc refining continues of interest in Canada. The British Columbia Government will give financial help to a Victoria reduction company for establishing a demonstration plant at Nelson.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Machinery, No. 19225.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a man in Brazil desires to purchase machinery used in extracting oil from seeds. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

General representation, No. 19226.—A letter to the Bureau states that a man in Peru desires to represent American manufacturers. No particular line is mentioned.

Flavoring extracts, fruit flavors, etc., No. 19227.—An American consular officer in India reports that a bakery desires catalogues and prices, c. i. f. port of destination, for flavoring extracts, fruit flavors, coffee paste, and cream yellow powder. It is also suggested that catalogues and price lists be sent to the American consulate.

Lamps, leather articles, jewelry, etc., No. 19228.—A letter to the Bureau states that a business man in Peru desires to be placed in communication with exporters or manufacturers of electric hanging and portable lamps of bronze or gilded metal, terra-cotta or imitation marble figures, busts, and groups; leather articles, such as card cases for men, with and without silver trimming; purses for women, traveling cases, with and without fittings; solid gold and plated jewelry, with or without stones; mesh bags for women, and pocket cigarette cases.

General agency, No. 19229.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a man with a knowledge of Spanish, and the customs of the Latin-American countries, desires to represent American manufacturers in South American countries.

Scientific instruments, No. 19230.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that there is an urgent demand for scientific instruments for chemistry, physics, electromechanics, astronomy, mineralogy, geology, zoology, physiology, surgery, anatomy, and meteorology, to be used in educational institutions.

Dry goods, hardware, etc., No. 19231.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that an exporting agency is about to reopen a branch in one of the Latin-American countries, and wishes to represent American manufacturers on a commission basis in dry goods, hardware, and optical and photographic supplies. References given.

Hardware and general fixtures, No. 19232.—A representative of a firm in England informs a commercial agent of the Bureau that he is interested in purchasing jute web, lamp burners, perforators, penknives, pliers and nippers, screw eyes, canvas gloves, cornice poles, and pen cleaners. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Ice-making machinery, No. 19233.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a man in his district wishes to act as agent on a commission basis for the sale of ice-making machinery. It is stated that there is a demand for small machines making approximately 10 pounds of ice per hour. Correspondence may be in Spanish. It is requested that catalogues be sent to the American consulate.

Glucose, No. 19234.—A report from an American consular officer in Brazil states that a company is desirous of purchasing glucose for the manufacture of candies. Prices, discount lists, and full information are requested.

Copper, No. 19235.—A firm in Greece informs an American consular officer that it desires to communicate with exporters of sulphate of copper with a view to importing same. Quotations should be c. i. f. port of destination. Payments arranged to suit seller. Correspondence may be in English. References given.

Wearing apparel, etc., No. 19236.—A commission agent in Venezuela informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent manufacturers or exporters of millinery, silk goods, silk underwear, and ready-made clothing for women, and also medicinal preparations.

Haberdashery, No. 19237.—A firm in China desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of men's furnishings, such as hats, shirts, socks, and ties. Correspondence may be in English.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 268 Washington, D. C., Monday, November 15 1915

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RECORD PRICES AT GOVERNMENT FUR SALE.

Record prices were obtained for both blue-fox and white-fox skins, at the sale of Government furs from Alaska, conducted by Funsten Bros. & Co., in St. Louis, Mo., on October 21, 1915. Average prices and their increase over those at the previous sale were given in COMMERCE REPORTS for October 22, 1915. The United States Bureau of Fisheries has prepared a more extended report, furnishing some interesting facts regarding this public auction.

The sales were: Total of 513 blue-fox skins, \$58,726; 65 white-fox skins; \$1,596; 70 beaver skins, \$892.50; total, \$61,214.50. Five lots of blue-fox skins, graded "extra-extra," each lot made up of four matched pelts, sold for \$245, \$250, \$253, \$255, and \$273, respectively, per skin. Three silver-blue skins brought \$255 each, and many lots graded as "No. 1" sold for \$160 to \$230 per skin. The average price at which blue-fox skins sold was \$114.45, an advance of about \$72 per skin over the last sales for the department.

The best grade of white-fox skins sold for \$30 and the lowest grade for \$17, the average being \$24.55 per skin.

Seventy beaver skins, which had been confiscated by the department because taken during closed time, brought from \$9 to \$17 per skin.

The market for silver-fox skins appears to be normal, and the prices received for 137 skins sold immediately after the Government skins were disposed of elicited spirited bidding. One pair of Alaska silver-fox skins brought \$2,610, and other pairs brought \$1,850, \$1,370, \$1,270, \$1,210, \$1,160, and \$1,060, respectively.

CONSULAR TRADE REPORTS IN RUSSIA.

[Consul F. Willoughby Smith, Batum, Oct. 3.]

Through the efforts of this office a firm in Baku is now buying regularly from the United States about \$40,000 worth of wire per month for industrial purposes.

NOTES FROM CHILE.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Sept. 26.]

Government Commissioner to Study Banking Legislation.

Mr. Edgardo M. Greve has been commissioned by the Chilean Government. "ad honorem," to study banking legislation in the United States, with special reference to reforms of the Federal Reserve Board.

Railway Construction—New Shops for State Railways.

The equivalent of \$145,000 United States gold has been appropriated by the National Congress to continue the work on the railway from Iquique to Pintados, on the Pintados-to-Soronal section.

The final arrangements for the contract for the construction of the new shops for the State Railways by the Niles-Bement-Pond Co. have been discussed by the directors of the State Railways and apparently nothing remains to be done but the settlement of unimportant details. Indications are that work will be started within a reasonably short time. This is the most important work pending on the West Coast of South America, in the sense that it means the introduction of a great variety of high-grade American labor-saving machinery.

New Electrical Companies.

The Compañía Eléctrica Caupolicán (address: Rengo, Chile) has been organized with a capital of 800,000 paper pesos (about \$130,000 American gold) to take over certain electrical machinery already installed and to purchase the concession for lighting the towns of Rengo, San Fernandom Rancagua, Peumo, San Vicente, and eight others.

La Compañía de Luz Eléctrica de Constitución has been organized, with a capital of 60,000 Chilean paper pesos (about \$10,000 United States gold), for lighting and providing power to the town of Constitución, located in the Province of Maule, on the coast. Constitución has a population of about 6,500 and is a popular seaside resort.

[The addresses of directors in these two companies may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 831.]

RUBBER PRODUCTION IN MALAY PENINSULA.

[Consul General John P. Bray, Singapore, Straits Settlements, Sept. 7.]

In checking up the estimate of the 1915 rubber production in the Malay Peninsula, quoted in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 23, 1915, I interviewed most of the leading rubber merchants of Singapore, and the opinion prevails that, instead of a smaller output this year, there will be an increase of at least 20,000 tons as compared with 1914. One of the largest corporations dealing in rubber in Singapore writes me on the subject as follows:

Referring to your letter of yesterday's date, we would beg to inform you that the official figures of the plantation production of rubber in the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements for the year 1914 amounts to 50,400 tons. These figures include transshipments from Java and Sumatra amounting to a few hundred tons.

For the first six months of 1915 the official figures give a total of 35,550 tons, or an increase of 13,200 tons over the figures for the corresponding period of 1914. It is estimated that the total production from these sources for the year 1915 will approximate 70,000 tons.

CONSUMPTION AND SUPPLIES OF COTTON IN UNITED STATES.

According to preliminary figures compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census, the cotton consumed in the United States during October, 1915, totaled 500,635 bales compared with 451,899 bales for the same month last year. The cotton on hand at the close of the month in consuming establishments amounted to 1,345,749 bales compared with 715,623 bales at the close of October, 1914, and the amount in public storage and compresses totaled 4,171,474 bales compared with 3,777,469 bales on October 31, 1914. The active cotton spindles during October numbered 31,379,385 against 30,461,320 for the same month in 1914.

Linters not included above were 68,944 bales consumed during October in 1915 and 30,102 bales in 1914; 130,031 bales on hand in consuming establishments on October 31, 1915, and 65,174 bales in 1914, and 71,372 bales in public storage and at compresses in 1915, and 41,753 bales in 1914. Linters consumed during three months ending October 31 amounted to 186,274 bales in 1915, and 83,146 bales in 1914.

Imports of foreign cotton during October were 13,506 bales of 500 pounds each compared with 12,150 bales for the same month in 1914, and the exports of domestic cotton and linters (running bales) during the month totaled 674,655 bales against 497,132 bales for October, 1914.

TO SELL AMERICAN FURNITURE IN THE ARGENTINE.

Further evidence of the interest of American furniture manufacturers in the markets of South America is afforded by the fact that a number of them have appointed an American, Mr. W. G. McNair, to represent them in Buenos Aires. Mr. McNair expects to establish himself permanently in Buenos Aires, branching out from there to other sections of South America, particularly Brazil, Uruguay, and Chile.

It is quite likely that this project will increase in a notable manner the exports of furniture to South America. Heretofore the principal line of our furniture marketed in South America has been office furniture, as household furniture has been supplied to a large extent from Europe, or has been produced in South American countries themselves, notably Brazil. The prevailing taste in South America is for period furniture rather than extremely plain or highly ornamented articles, and this is the kind which will probably be most pushed in the present instance. The firms which Mr. McNair represents, the chief of which is a prominent Grand Rapids concern, turn out a high grade of period furniture and should consequently have little difficulty in competing on the Argentine market.

Hawaiian soil is being used to build up the small coral island in the Pacific known as Midway and used as a relay station by the Commercial Pacific Cable Co. A quantity is taken there every three months by the schooner that is sent with food supplies for the operators. The task of building the island has progressed so far that it is possible to keep a cow on the pasture.

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

The following tables show the quantity of each of the principal commodities and the number of passengers carried through the United States and the Canadian Sault Ste. Marie (Soo) Canals during October and for the season, until October 31, 1914 and 1915:

[From a report of the United States engineer in charge of the United States canal at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.]

FOR OCTOBER.

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total, both canals.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	12,752	15,526	595	6,752	13,347	22,278
Grain.....bushels..	6,665,205	5,841,877	4,865,767	3,848,973	11,530,972	9,690,850
Flour.....barrels..	1,122,530	934,330	282,490	638,630	1,405,010	1,572,960
Iron ore.....short tons..	2,052,278	5,470,608	2,319,012	1,405,762	4,371,288	6,876,570
Iron, pig.....do.....	.....	6,656	2,000	2,070	2,000	8,726
Lumber.....M feet b. m..	55,490	58,568	4,440	4,716	59,930	63,284
Wheat.....bushels..	9,885,063	47,783,522	17,793,087	17,603,834	27,678,156	65,387,356
General merchandise, short tons..	21,357	40,259	820	16,207	22,177	56,466
Passengers.....number..	217	85	676	452	893	537
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	211,810	260,188	25,900	.....	237,710	260,188
Soft.....do.....	1,313,170	1,537,580	295,941	105,693	1,609,111	1,643,283
Manufactured iron.....do..	16,577	19,652	2,033	4,726	18,610	24,378
Iron ore.....do.....	.....	1,500	3,696	.....	3,696	1,500
Flour.....barrels..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Salt.....do.....	83,371	113,876	2,149	8,540	85,520	122,416
Grain.....bushels..	.....	.....	.....	373	.....	373
General merchandise, short tons..	87,177	163,906	40,870	46,853	128,047	210,758
Passengers.....number..	475	59	368	313	843	372
Total freight:						
Eastbound, short tons..	2,742,541	7,292,000	2,987,477	2,107,436	5,730,018	9,399,436
Westbound, short tons..	1,641,240	1,099,917	368,747	158,498	2,009,987	2,158,415
Both ways, short tons..	4,383,781	9,291,917	3,356,224	2,265,934	7,740,005	11,557,851
Vessel passages.....number..	1,755	2,421	754	810	2,509	3,231
Registered tonnage.....net..	3,759,562	7,305,359	2,079,123	1,977,901	5,838,085	9,283,260

SEVEN MONTHS ENDING OCT. 31.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	58,153	99,813	2,431	17,838	60,584	117,651
Grain.....bushels..	23,168,640	21,024,831	26,307,860	14,170,372	49,478,500	35,195,203
Flour.....barrels..	6,324,092	4,512,449	1,805,370	2,151,618	8,130,432	6,664,067
Iron ore.....short tons..	9,515,760	37,388,670	20,778,530	3,249,652	30,294,290	40,638,322
Iron, pig.....do.....	11,513	8,870	4,000	6,770	15,713	15,640
Lumber.....M ft. b. m..	390,169	377,387	18,000	38,965	408,178	416,352
Wheat.....bushels..	29,226,847	93,800,032	80,037,066	38,125,990	109,323,913	131,926,082
General merchandise, short tons..	154,975	158,561	68,316	109,276	223,291	267,837
Passengers.....number..	15,566	12,813	12,873	12,934	28,439	25,747
WESTBOUND.						
Coal, hard.....short tons..	1,525,924	1,670,289	391,287	38,633	1,827,211	1,708,922
Coal, soft.....do.....	9,379,496	9,381,288	1,943,538	368,038	11,323,334	9,749,343
Manufactured iron, short tons..	146,607	140,627	40,616	17,888	196,223	158,515
Iron ore.....short tons..	.....	1,500	3,696	.....	3,696	1,500
Flour.....barrels..	512	109	.....	.....	512	100
Salt.....do.....	587,843	576,776	63,413	26,810	651,256	603,586
Grain.....bushels..	.....	31,250	.....	373	.....	31,623

SEVEN MONTHS ENDING OCT. 31—Continued.

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total, both canals.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915
WESTBOUND—continued.						
General merchandise, short tons.....	612,742	855,644	314,608	237,489	927,350	1,093,133
Passengers.....number..	14,172	12,534	16,690	11,797	30,862	24,331
Total freight:						
Eastbound, short tons.	12,417,045	42,043,977	23,981,520	5,095,197	36,398,565	47,139,174
Westbound.....do....	11,752,996	12,136,378	2,622,119	665,504	14,375,115	12,802,280
Both ways.....do....	24,170,041	54,180,353	26,603,639	5,761,101	50,773,680	59,941,454
Vessel passages.....number..	11,460	14,560	5,605	3,578	17,065	18,138
Registered tonnage.....net..	23,317,813	41,009,237	16,522,620	6,853,021	38,840,433	47,862,258

NOTE.—The United States canal opened on Apr. 20, 1914, and on Apr. 17, 1915. The Canadian canal opened on Apr. 20, 1914, and on Apr. 13, 1915.

CANADIAN HERRING FISHERIES.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul at Ottawa, Nov. 9.]

It is reported that an American firm being unable to secure Scottish herring on account of war conditions recently offered to purchase 50,000 barrels of Canadian herring at a very high price if the fish could be obtained in a satisfactory condition. This is particularly noteworthy, as Canadian herring now sells at \$2.50 a barrel, while the Scottish product has been selling at \$10 to \$15 a barrel. The low price of the Canadian herring [as well as all other herring in the Western Hemisphere] is due to imperfect and unsatisfactory curing and packing.

The Canadian herring fisheries are said to be the richest in the world, and the quality of the fish is quite as good as the North Sea product. This industry of Canada has great opportunities at the present time, and an effort is being made to cause such inspection, standardization, and advertising of the product as will enable it to command the markets which, with improved conditions, will be found awaiting it.

REGULATION OF PRICE OF RICE IN JAPAN.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 5.]

At the Cabinet Council on October 1, the Japanese Government finally decided to establish the Beika Chosetsu Kai (Society for Regulating the Price of Rice), and on October 2 the Department of Agriculture and Commerce considered the selection of members of the society. According to the "Asahi" (Osaka), the membership of this body will number 70 in all, comprising several representative business men from Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, and other important officials, about 40 officials of agricultural associations, agricultural and industrial banks, and large landowners, 10 members each of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives, and some officials of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. It is expected that they will meet about October 20 for the first time, when they will start discussing ways and means of regulating the price of rice.

OFFICIAL NUMBERS FOR MERCHANT VESSELS.

The following is a statement of official numbers and signal letters awarded to merchant vessels by the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, during the week ended November 6, 1915:

Name.	Official number.	Signal letters.	Tonnage.		Year built.	Where built.	Home port.
			Gross.	Net.			
SAIL.							
Schooner barge: Montauk	213744	LFQT	1,371	1,257	1915	Wilmington, Del..	Wilmington, Del.
POWER.							
Gas screw yacht: Wanderlust	213741	.....	73	70	1909	Oshkosh, Wis.	Milwaukee.
Gas screw: Albert Chester...	213736	.....	14	8	1915	Kennebunkport, Me.	Portland, Me.
Alice H.	213739	.....	8	5	1915	Tacoma, Wash.	Tacoma.
George L. Thompson	213745	.....	20	19	1915	Bristol, R. I.	Providence.
Henrietta	213737	.....	11	9	1910	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis.
Karlstruhe	213738	.....	25	23	1915	Manitowoc, Wis. ..	Milwaukee.
Sophia T.	213735	.....	9	8	1915	do	Do.
Steam stern wheel: Poinsettia	213742	.....	42	36	1915	Fort Myers, Fla..	Key West.
Steam screw: Edna	213743	LFQG	1,783	1,135	1903	Bergen, Norway ..	San Francisco.
Stephen R. Jones	213740	LFQD	4,387	3,112	1915	Newport News, Va.	Boston.
UNRIGGED.							
Barge: Shirley	166163	.....	463	463	1915	Kingston, N. Y. ...	New York.
Derrick barge: Yulee	166162	.....	286	286	1915	Tottenville, N. Y.	Do.

^a Date and place of build unknown. Rebuilt at Bristol, R. I., 1915.

^b Foreign-built vessel admitted to American registry under the act of Aug. 18, 1914.

^c Formerly the Mexican steamship *Mazanlan*.

Foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, since June 30, 1915, total 20, of 50,865 gross tons.

TRADE-EXTENSION WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Sept. 22.]

Several specific results from the trade-extension work of the Port Elizabeth consulate have recently come to the attention of this office. One of these involved the sale of alfalfa cultivators from a stock of implements held at this port. Paints, oils, incubators, small hardware and tools, and druggists' sundries are other lines of American goods that have been introduced through the agency of correspondence that passed through this office.

The importance of having catalogues on file in American consulates is well exemplified by results within the past quarter. Through information obtained in this manner American electric lamps, heaters, cookers, and irons have been introduced on the Port Elizabeth market, and one make of iron, which is approved by the city electrical engineer, has met with an extensive sale. Further, the representative of one of the large importing houses of South Africa has gone to the United States to establish trade connections there after consulting the catalogues on file in this consulate.

REPORT ON HYDROGRAPHIC WORK IN FAR EAST.

[Consul J. K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Siberia, Sept. 24.]

A report has been made here on the work of the hydrographic expedition in the Pacific Ocean in 1914. The survey of the shore from Cape Ekaterin to Cape Taiganos was successfully accomplished. Here many mistakes in the existing charts were discovered, as well as the existence of a very dangerous rock, situated in the steamer track from the south up to Guigiga. Even at medium depths, the rock is submerged and presents a great danger to navigation.

After the survey was made as far as Taiganos, the steamer crossed the Penginskaya Gulf to Cape Ugolny and began further operations from there.

While crossing the gulf the expedition came across shallow waters and a row of stones projecting above the water level some 6 miles from the eastern shore. "The high and rocky coast of that part of the Penginskaya Gulf would hardly cause one to expect such stones," says the report, "but they were there and in order not to ground the expedition had to calculate when it would be low tide so that if the steamer should ground on any of these rocks the rising or high tide would float her. This method was not practicable everywhere. For instance, in Rekin Gulf there are only 8 to 10 feet of water at low tide and the work had to be done, even at the risk of grounding, at high tide. Nearly as far as Podkargernaya Bay numerous rocks and shallows hindered the progress of the work, but the expedition succeeded in eluding them."

The work along the western shore of Kamchatka was carried on successfully and the expedition succeeded in including the whole western shore of the peninsula down to Cape Lapatka, returning to Nikolaiefsk on August 26.

The total length of coast surveyed is about 1,000 sea miles.

AN EXAMPLE OF BAD PACKING.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Oct. 4.]

The unsatisfactory condition in which two lots of American chloride of lime reached Valparaiso is clearly shown by photographs which have been sent to Washington. It is plainly evident that merchandise in such broken and battered drums is unsalable.

The mistake made by the exporter was in shipping chloride of lime to Chile in drums of the same weight and thickness used for shipment within the United States. It may be also that the exporter of this lime has been in the habit of shipping this product so packed to East Coast ports and to Europe without loss by breakage, but it must be remembered that in Chile all unloading is done from ship to lighter and from lighter to pier, and that both handlings must often be done in rough weather. The importers say that they have never had any bad experience in regard to the packing of this product as received from Europe.

[The two photographs referred to, which show the damaged condition in which the consignments reached Valparaiso, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; ask for file No. 68189.]

CHEAP BEER FOR SOUTH CHINA.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, Sept. 21.]

The stopping of imports of German beer in the Hongkong and South China markets has caused the local purveyors some difficulty in meeting the demands of the trade, particularly in cheap beer for Chinese consumption. The Japanese exporters have extended their business to an enormous extent in comparison with their former trade, as previous to the war the German beer dominated the market. The Japanese are selling these days between 500 and 600 cases a week of the cheaper grades, and there is no apparent serious competition.

A prominent wine merchant is after a cheap beer to compete with the Japanese product; and if American producers can place in Hongkong c. i. f. a beer that will not cost over \$3.65 gold for four dozen quarts, there will be undoubtedly a steady and profitable business. This price would yield to the middleman a very small profit, but the turnover would be sufficient probably to give in the long run a fair remuneration for the trouble and expense entailed in advertising and pushing the beer.

An English ale is now having splendid sales at about \$22 gold c. i. f. Hongkong per cask of 50 imperial gallons. The duty is about 11 cents per gallon. This increase in price is due to the enhanced cost of the cask, for in normal times the beer is delivered in Hongkong at about \$20 gold per case. There is also a cheap Canadian beer on the market which costs laid down in Hongkong about \$4 gold per case, and probably this can be sold even cheaper.

AMERICANS SHOULD KNOW BEST SHIPPING ROUTES.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Tripoli, Libya, Sept. 27.]

A merchant in Tripoli recently forwarded a small trial order to a firm in the United States. The American firm appealed to him to know the "most direct route for shipment." This information the exporter might have obtained at home, through any navigation company entering Mediterranean waters, through some shipping broker, the various "exporters' guides," or the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Such questions should not be addressed to foreign merchants, unless absolutely necessary. They efface that impression of knowledge of export trade which inspires confidence to place orders. If American manufacturers hope to hold such openings as they may obtain because of the European war, they must acquire the perfect knowledge of all the small details of exporting that formerly influenced trade in favor of European competitors.

It may not be amiss to repeat for the benefit of others who may have orders from local merchants that there are no direct sailings between Tripoli and the United States, but transshipments can be made at Genoa, Naples, Palermo, and Malta. If, as is probable, the freight rate for the long haul from America is the same to all these ports, then consignments should be booked for transshipment at either Naples, Palermo, or Malta, because of the shorter haul and consequent lower freight to this port as compared with Genoa.

CLOSER COOPERATION WITH CONSULS URGED.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Sept. 30.]

It is unfortunate that many American exporters, who have written to the Bradford consulate for trade information and have been sent the addresses of local firms interested in this line of goods, fail even to acknowledge the receipt of the consulate's letter. If it were possible for them to advise this office it would be of great service here to know what the result was. Even if the American concern did not effect a sale it might be possible for the consulate to smooth away some difficulty; or at any rate the experience would be helpful to this office when a similar inquiry was made, or when, as is often the case, the same firm writes again, say next year, and makes identically the same inquiry. At times one is forced to believe that these commercial inquiries of consular officers are made wholesale and little or no individual attention given to each letter sent out. In commercial work, especially in introducing goods, it is well to remember that—as in picking fruit—handwork secures the best results.

It is understood at this office that it is a practice of many American firms when they receive more orders than they can fill to ignore all superfluous applications. While such a practice may not give offense to those who understand the American business man, it does create an unfavorable impression in foreign countries, where probably a slower speed of business activity enables business firms to give due regard to the little courtesies of life that in the aggregate count for so much with them. It would pay American firms to consider this, and it certainly would help American consular officers in their work for American exporters.

THIS SEASON'S CATCH OF MEXICAN CRAWFISH.

[Consul Claude E. Guyant, Ensenada, Lower California, Oct. 28.]

The 1915 season for taking crawfish from Lower Californian waters, which lasts the greater part of the year, has just ended. This industry, which is controlled by a Mexican concessionaire, has been increasing in local importance during the past few years and the 1915 output, as declared at this consulate, for export amounted to 373,534 pounds, valued at \$33,697 United States currency. This is an increase of \$10,000 over the exports of 1913, and of \$19,000 over those of 1912. Figures for 1914 are not available.

The entire catch is exported from Ensenada to San Diego, Cal., whence it is distributed to western United States markets.

The profits of a well-known London and Australian firm of merchants show a decrease of a little more than \$40,000 during the last year for which figures have been prepared, but considering that only a fortnight of their year was outside the war period, this was considered satisfactory. In 1912-13 the amount earned was \$298,175; in 1913-14 it was \$303,144; and in the past year, \$262,757. The company is paying 6 per cent dividends, as in every year since this rate was reached, in 1910-11.

TRADE-EXTENSION WORK IN BRADFORD DISTRICT.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Sept. 30.]

As part of its trade-extension work the Bradford consulate forwarded numerous trade opportunities for publication in **COMMERCE REPORTS** during the past year. In endeavoring to ascertain the success met with by the inquiring firms, many of the difficulties which they encountered in seeking to open new trade connections were brought to light.

Taking, for example, the "opportunity" for wall papers that was published December 4, 1914, the inquiring firm reports that it received replies from two houses in the United States, only to learn that the dimensions of American wall papers are not the same as are demanded here. The rolls of wall paper sold in England are 12 yards long and 21 inches wide; the American rolls were 8 yards long and 18 inches wide. The length, however, is not so important as the width. The Bradford firm stated that within the last few weeks a combine had been formed of all British manufacturers of wall paper and that dealers would practically be compelled to purchase all supplies of ordinary wall paper from British makers. Its understanding of the situation was that firms in this country would be open to purchase only specialties or fancy wall papers from the United States. The firm referred to is now selling American leather wall papers.

F. O. B. Quotations Lost Order.

Another Bradford concern, which wished to secure a supply of plates, reports that it has not been able to place any orders, as the American firms quoted prices f. o. b. at their factory and it has been most difficult to ascertain locally the freight and other charges. The consulate has endeavored to assist the inquirers, but freight rates have been advancing so rapidly that they have not been able to determine the delivered cost of the plates. They have therefore been forced to buy supplies in England, but will continue their correspondence.

This is only another instance of the advisability of American exporters quoting c. i. f., or at least going to the trouble of advising prospective purchasers as to the probable or approximate freight and other charges. Recently local dealers received samples and prices of tobacco pipes manufactured in Missouri, but as the prices were f. o. b. factory it was practically impossible for the firms, despite their interest in the matter and all the assistance this office could give them, to ascertain the freight rates. Shipping firms offered to cable to New York for the information, but any rates so obtained would only be for that date. Moreover, the Missouri firm gave their prices in dollars and cents, and in one case this caused the matter to be laid aside.

A Matter of Hosiery Needles.

A hosiery manufacturer near Bradford recently asked this consulate's assistance in obtaining American hosiery needles. As the need was urgent, inquiry was made by this office of the American consular agent at Leicester, who kindly sent the names and addresses of several British agents of American makers. Supplies

could not be obtained from them. The hosiery manufacturer then got into communication with an American firm, but its prices were very high. For instance, for a German latch needle (No. 60 for half hose) which he had purchased before the war in Leicester for 50s. (\$12.17) per thousand the American firm asked \$44, with freight and all expenses added. Moreover, the German firm was always willing to accept orders for 1,000 needles of a kind, while the American firm somewhat reluctantly accepted orders for 1,000 of a kind, stating that 5,000 was its usual minimum.

The manufacturer now has his needs, which are comparatively small, filled for some time, but it is evident that he feels that the American firm is not treating him with such consideration as to lead him to continue to do business with it longer than is absolutely necessary.

MORE SPINDLES FOR JAPANESE MILLS.

[Translation from the Osaka Mainichi Shimbun, Oct. 8.]

Japanese cotton-spinning companies are competing with one another in schemes for increasing the number of spindles in their factories, the plans calling for completion by the first half of 1917. However, difficulty in securing the necessary machinery is delaying the installations. The following list shows the dates when the various companies had expected to receive their new equipment:

Name of company.	Number of spindles ordered.	Agreed date of shipment.
Fuji Spinning.....	50,000	Last half of 1916.
Amagasaki Spinning.....	28,000	About May, 1916.
Osaka Amalgamated.....	41,000	Do.
Toyo Spinning.....	30,000	Do.
Fukushima Spinning.....	20,000	Now preparing.
Toyoda Cotton Spinning.....	8,500	Should be loading now.
Settsu Spinning.....	8,000	During 1916.
Mitsui-Shanghai.....	50,000	Do.
Matsuyama Spinning.....	5,000	Do.
Sakai Cotton Spinning.....	20,000	Do.
Temma Spinning.....	15,000	Do.
Omada Spinning.....	10,000	Do.
Hinode Spinning.....	10,000	Not yet decided.
Nagasaki Spinning.....	10,000	Do.

The cost of spinning machinery, in comparison with its cost during the first part of this year, has increased 10 to 20 per cent, and, in comparison with the cost during the last half of last year, actually 30 to 40 per cent.

[The number of spindles in Japan on Dec. 31, 1914, the mill output and sales of yarn in the last two years, and other recent data of Japan's cotton-spinning industry are given in a monograph that the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has just issued as Special Consular Reports No. 74. Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from any of the branch offices of the Bureau; price, 5 cents.]

Corundum mining in the United States has ceased, while Canadian production dropped from \$239,091 in 1912 to \$72,176 in 1914. Artificial abrasives have displaced the natural products.

FLUCTUATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE.

[Vice Consul Charles H. Helsler, Cape Town, South Africa, Sept. 21.]

The war in Europe has had a remarkable effect on trade within the Union of South Africa, and is more and more influencing importations into this country. The tendency has been to increase the importations in some cases, though in other cases a noticeable decrease has occurred.

For the first eight months of this year the imports of merchandise into the Union amounted in value to \$87,738,318, as against \$110,612,368 in the first eight months of last year. This shows a decrease for this year of \$22,874,050. The decrease has not been continuous, however, as it was registered almost entirely in the early months of the year. For the past few months there has been a steady expansion in the volume of merchandise introduced from over-sea, and during the month of August the value exceeded that of imports recorded during August of last year by \$337,257.

Although the imports have steadily increased during the last few months, it is not improbable that there will be fluctuations in the months to come. South African merchants as a whole are not disposed to introduce large stocks until the outlook becomes clearer, and there is a general inclination to continue business on the smallest holdings which will suffice to meet demands.

Articles and Ports Affected by Changes in Trade.

The principal imports that have shown increases were: Wheat, drugs and chemicals, bags (coal, grain, etc.), spirits (potable), confectionery, and preserved fish.

The chief decreases were in cotton manufactures, machinery, apparel and slops, leather goods, hardware and cutlery, haberdashery and millinery, woolen manufactures, iron and steel manufactures, flour, wood and timber, motor cars and parts, furniture, electric wire and fittings, agricultural implements, manures and fertilizers, railway material, tobacco, musical instruments, and jewelry.

The fall in the imports of machinery, agricultural implements, wood and timber, manures and fertilizers, and electric appliances is especially noticeable, as it indicates the temporary suspension of developmental work in the Union. The heavy reduction in the introduction of motor cars, motor bicycles, etc., is doubtless an indication of the community's desire to forego luxuries for the present.

Imports at Cape Town, East London, and Durban showed gains in August, while receipts at Port Elizabeth and those through the port of Lourenco Marques in Portuguese East Africa fell below the figures for August, 1914. The respective values were: Cape Town, \$2,468,669 (against \$2,232,765 in August, 1914); Port Elizabeth, \$2,326,571 (against \$2,729,566); East London, \$1,489,903 (against \$1,120,891); Durban, \$4,244,556 (against \$3,583,958); Lourenco Marques, \$1,188,438 (against \$1,663,399); other ports and stations, \$128,885 (against \$179,186).

Oilstones and scythestones produced in the United States increased from \$8,000 worth in 1880 to a record of \$366,857 in 1903, and dropped to \$167,948 in 1914.

CONDITIONS IN JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL CENTER.

[Translation from the Osaka Mainichi Shimbun, Oct. 2.]

Owing to the stopping of exports, the lack of raw materials, and other causes the industries of Osaka at one time felt the effects of the war acutely. The manufacture of glass practically ceased and knitting mills discharged many workers and endeavored to reduce expenses by heavy cuts in the wages of those kept on the pay roll. Lately there has been a heavy increase in the exportation of glass to Australia and India and large orders for knitted goods have been received from Russia, Australia, and Great Britain, so at the present both of these industries are in a flourishing condition. Wages are now about 20 per cent higher than before the war.

Besides the industries mentioned there has been a great increase in the demand for copper and antimony, and while not on a large scale the very marked activity of the brick industry is attracting considerable attention. The production of paper, soap, paints, dyes, and chemicals has increased as substitutes are necessary for the goods formerly imported and which can not now be obtained. The steel and shipbuilding industries are also quite flourishing, owing to the activity of the shipping industry with its persistent demand for more ships.

Amalgamation of Small Factories.

In order to qualify themselves to obtain orders from abroad, the small factories, which have heretofore been independent, are showing a tendency to amalgamate. This is working a marked change in industrial conditions in Osaka, bringing with it, as it does, an increase in the size of the factories and in the number of employees; a marked rise in wages, also, can not be avoided.

The following figures compiled by the Osaka Prefectural Government show the increases in the number of factory hands of all kinds and set at rest any doubts as to the good condition of the industries:

Industries.	Number of factory hands.		Industries.	Number of factory hands.	
	July, 1914.	October, 1915.		July, 1914.	October, 1915.
Brick.....	523	1, 138	Paper.....	813	1, 027
Iron and steel works.....	20, 415	21, 471	Rubber goods.....	1, 018	1, 194
Shipbuilding.....	2, 468	2, 918	Chemicals.....	879	983
Glass.....	5, 309	6, 709	Buttons.....	3, 428	3, 681
Wool weaving.....	485	897	Metal goods.....	13, 098	13, 156
Leather.....	596	2, 114	Cotton spinning.....	30, 331	35, 009
Knitted goods.....	7, 531	8, 961	Dyes.....	3, 222	3, 365

The rate of increase since the beginning of the war is about 13 per cent.

El Grito del Pueblo Ecuatoriano, a publication at Guayaquil, Ecuador, prints an article in which it is stated that a representative of capitalists in the United States has announced plans for a steamship line between that city and Philadelphia under the Ecuadorian flag. The announced purpose of the company, capitalized at \$3,000,000, is to exploit the iron mines and cattle industry of the South American country, four ships to be placed on the route. A translation of the article is forwarded by Consul General Goding.

EFFORTS TO DEVELOP TUNGSTEN SUPPLY IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 22.]

The scarcity of tungsten in the United States has been sufficient to cause certain American firms to send representatives to South America to ascertain whether or not this mineral is obtainable in commercial quantities. But as in the case of most of the mineral wealth of Brazil, the extent of the deposits, the availability of the ore in commercial quantities, and the prices at which such products may be bought are still entirely problematical.

Dr. Orville Derby, the Director of the Brazilian Geological Service, states that the data on hand concerning tungsten in Brazil are extremely vague; that a few years ago some wolframite was being separated from copper ore at Enoruzilhada, in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, but that the company has since suspended operations. He also states that scheelite is known to occur in old gold washings at Sumidouro de Marianna, in the State of Minas Geraes, but presumably not in workable quantities.

A mining engineer informs me that in his exploration trips in the interior of the country he encountered deposits of tungsten in the States of Espirito Santo and Minas Geraes, considerable quantities of wolframite being available in the former State, and scheelite in small quantities in the latter State. American firms which are interested in these minerals, as well as in tantalite, might well write to this engineer, who states that if he is applied to he will be glad to investigate these matters further in the hope that an opportunity may arise for the commercial exploitation of the minerals mentioned. His address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67949.

BRITISH SHEEP FOR JAPAN.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle of Sept. 28, by Consul General George H. Scldmore, Yokohama.]

The Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce is to spend 30,000 yen (\$14,940) annually on rearing of sheep, beginning with the financial year 1916-17. About 200 head of sheep will be purchased from England and kept on the pastures at Tsukisamushu, Hokkaido. Should these renewed experiments in sheep raising in Japan prove remunerative the authorities will take steps for the encouragement of this branch of agriculture among farmers. The Japanese authorities are apparently convinced that sheep raising in Japan will turn out successful, but it should be remembered that much depends upon the demand for mutton, which is not an accepted article of food in this country. (In fact the odor and taste are exceedingly repulsive to nearly all Japanese.)

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

- Ferromanganese, etc.*, No. 19238.—A firm in Spain informs an American consular officer that it desires to import ferromanganese, ferrosilicon, and aluminum in bars, either as agents or to buy direct. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Flutophone*, No. 19239.—An American consular officer in Scotland reports that a man in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of a musical instrument known as the "Flutophone."
- Water wings*, No. 19240.—A report from an American consular officer in Switzerland states that a wholesale dealer and importer in haberdashery is anxious to be placed in touch with manufacturers of water wings. References given.
- Iron nails*, No. 19241.—An American consular officer in the Canary Islands reports that a packing jobber desires f. o. b. prices on iron nails for locking together banana crates and tomato boxes. The dimensions of the nails wanted are as follows: Length $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, gauge 14; $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, gauge $13\frac{1}{2}$; $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, gauge 15; $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, gauge 15; and 1 inch, 16 gauge. Nails are wanted in 100-pound barrels, and the firm wishes to pay cash against shipping documents.
- Felt floor coverings*, No. 19242.—A retail firm in Spain desires to import felt floor coverings of wool or hair felt for laying under carpets. A sample of the felt desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68506.)
- Men's wearing apparel*, No. 19243.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce informs the Bureau that a business man in Brazil desires to have illustrated catalogues on men's haberdashery, hats, umbrellas, overcoats, etc. If possible, literature should be in Portuguese; if not, English may be used.
- Advertising novelties*, No. 19244.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a man in New Zealand desires to represent manufacturers of advertising novelties of all descriptions. Catalogues, price lists, and full information are requested.
- Codfish*, No. 19245.—A report from an American consular officer in Spain states that there is a request for prices on 50 kilos of codfish. References given.
- Sulphur black and monosulphonic acid*, No. 19246.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a company is desirous of getting in touch with manufacturers of sulphur black and monosulphonic acid, which can supply same in any desired quantities. Quotations c. i. f. port of destination. Correspondence may be in English.
- Wood*, No. 19247.—A business man in Spain informs an American consular officer that he wishes to import wood for manufacturing oars. Reference is given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Pharmaceutical products*, No. 19248.—A firm in Italy desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers or exporters of pharmaceutical products. Correspondence may be in English.
- Combs*, No. 19249.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a man in his district wishes to receive catalogues, samples, prices, and terms for combs made of celluloid, ebonite, or gallsolith. Correspondence and all literature should be in Spanish. Cash will be paid on arrival of goods at Spanish port.
- Feeding bottles, etc.*, No. 19250.—A report from an American consular officer in the United Kingdom states that a company desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of glass bottles, used in the drug trade; feeding bottles; willow boxes for ointments; and clinical, dairy, food, and bath thermometers.
- Goose quills*, No. 19251.—The Bureau is in receipt of a communication stating that a cigar factory desires to purchase goose quills, cut at about 4 centimeters, such as are used in the manufacture of certain kinds of cigars. Samples of quills may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2776.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 26, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, iron castings, wrought-iron or steel pipe, mule shoes, horseshoe nails, screws, cotters, tacks, turn-buckles, bronze bars, brass chains, shovels, manure forks, mop handles, tool handles, brooms, scrub brushes, roof brushes, paint brushes, snatch blocks, tackle blocks, lanterns, buckets, oil cans, lantern globes, window glass, scythestones, steel tapes, rules, plumb bobs, gate valves, hose couplings, door bolts, locks, hasps, hinges, door hooks, furniture casters, hose, packing, asbestos gaskets, sash cord, chalk line, twine, tarpaulins, sheeting, bunting, railway flags, cheesecloth, oilcloth, linoleum, emery cloth, sandpaper, leather belting, belt lacing, ship's felt, cork, boiler lagging, crayons, metal polish, beeswax, candles, potassium chlorate, borax, lye, paper, and white-oak lumber. (Circular No. 990.)

Construction work, No. 2777.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 21, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at Attleboro, Mass. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Attleboro or at the Washington office.

Steel towers, No. 2778.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 8, 1916, for the construction of 400-foot steel towers at the radio station at Guam. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Lifeboats, No. 2779.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Coast Guard, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 30, 1915, for the construction of Beebe-McLellan self-bailing, water-ballast surfboats, with centerboards. Plans and specifications and further information may be obtained on application to the Supervisor of Lifeboats, Room 522, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2780.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 1, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges on dock, at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel shapes, plates, and bars, steel and iron chain, steel and iron pipe, pipe fittings, valves, sink plugs, cocks, ejectors, lavatories, copper tubing, manila rope, mop heads, flax swabs, rubber bands, manila paper, wagon rims and spokes, and lumber. (Circular No. 991.)

Construction work, No. 2781.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 22, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at Aurora, Nebr. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Aurora, or at the Washington office.

Wrecking building, No. 2782.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the lighthouse inspector, Charleston, S. C., until December 7, 1915, for tearing down four-story brick mill building and disposing of material as specified, including placing of bricks as riprap outside bulkhead on Ashley River, front of Charleston Lighthouse Depot. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

Dredging, No. 2783.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 11, 1915, for dredging at the navy yard, New York, N. Y. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the commandant of the navy yard named or to the Washington office.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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SUPERIOR U. S. CLAY MAKES INDUSTRY INDEPENDENT.

American glass manufacturers who have felt the necessity of depending upon foreign clays will be able hereafter to assert their independence of foreign material, as a result of experiments that have been conducted by the United States Bureau of Standards. The Pittsburgh laboratory of that bureau, which is located near one of the chief centers for the industry in the United States, working in cooperation with the clay-pot industries, has learned that glass refractories (pots in which the glass is melted) can be prepared from American clays, with resulting better quality than that of the article manufactured with the addition of German plastic clays.

The mixture prepared from American clays proved superior in the glass-corrosion tests, both to the mixtures prepared with German clays alone, and to those prepared from American and German clays combined.

The director of the Bureau of Standards states that the value of the results of this single investigation to American industry far surpasses the entire amount the Government has expended in the clay-products work since the time of its organization. The opinion of those in charge of the experiments is that from now on no foreign clays will be needed in this branch of manufacture. The work inaugurated by these experiments is now ready to be tried out on a large scale.

REMOVAL OF EMBARGO ON FURS IN RUSSIA.

[Telegram from Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, received Nov. 13, 1915.]

The Council of Ministers has authorized the exportation to allied and neutral countries by any route of the following furs: Beaver, otter, sable, black and gray-black fox, blue arctic fox, elk, seal, ermine, marten, skunk, and karakul, finished or unfinished. No applications for permission to export are now required.

[For earlier references to the relaxation of embargo on furs, see Commerce Reports, Aug. 8 and Oct. 9, 1915.]

BUSINESS MEN INTERESTED IN SPECIAL AGENT'S WORK.

Much interest is being shown in the work of Mr. Stanley H. Rose, special agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, who is now traveling in the United States for the purpose of interviewing manufacturers and others concerning the details required in building up an export business. This is taken as further evidence of the steadily growing interest in foreign trade on the part of the business public of the country, and the lack of information with which the business man is too often confronted when attempting to establish an export business.

It has been found desirable to add a number of cities to the itinerary of Mr. Rose, and the schedule which he will follow, up to the end of the year, is:

Lincoln, Nebr.....	November 16-17	Louisville.....	December 6-8
Omaha, Nebr.....	November 18-19	Cincinnati.....	December 9-11
Des Moines.....	November 22-23	Marletta.....	December 13-14
Davenport (including		Johnstown.....	December 16-17
Moline).....	November 25-26	Reading.....	December 20-21
Burlington.....	November 29-30	New York.....	December 23-24
St. Louis.....	December 2-4	Washington.....	December 27

After the holidays Mr. Rose also expects to visit a number of other cities, especially those in the Southern States. Any manufacturers living near the places which he will visit can arrange for special appointments to discuss export details by getting in touch with the secretary of the commercial organization in any of the cities named.

Besides giving information concerning export details, Mr. Rose offers for inspection a number of publications of the bureau on special markets for American goods, and has with him a set of stereopticon slides for illustrating the work of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. As he has traveled in many foreign countries and has been actively engaged in the export business in the United States, his information and advice are of the practical sort which American manufacturers most desire.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 3	Itinerary being arranged.

NEW DIRECT NEW YORK-CANARY ISLAND LINE.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Sept. 25.]

A new line of steamers, forming another direct monthly service between New York and Canary Island ports, was inaugurated on September 20 by the arrival at Las Palmas, Grand Canary, of the first vessel dispatched by the Ocean Transportation Co. of New York City. Three steamers have already been announced as placed on the new line, and this number will be added to so as to permit of a regular monthly service in each direction. The first vessel reloaded here with fruit for Barcelona, where return cargo direct to the United States was waiting.

Announcement has already been made by the local agents that the second vessel of this new American company had been forced to refuse freight for this district a full month before the date set for its departure from New York. At the same time it is complained here that freight for these islands has been waiting on the New York docks for many months.

Recent Cargoes Instructing.

The trend of the trade between the United States and the Canary Island is clearly indicated by certain recent cargoes arriving here. Ships' manifests show that tobacco, hams (fresh and cured), canned goods, automobiles, and heavy machinery figure prominently in present-day cargoes. Comparisons made with pre-war statistics bring out the fact that tobacco is now imported direct from the United States, whereas it was previously bought from Hamburg in very large quantities, and that there was a very large direct importation of American canned goods (hitherto usually bought through British middlemen) in the first half of 1915.

Also, since January 1, the American automobile has practically driven all other makes from this market. The steamer from New York that reached here September 20 brought 10 automobiles, all American makes, and three of them trucks for heavy hauling, the like of which had never before been seen in these islands. As stated, considerable heavy machinery, including boilers and stationary engines, has likewise begun to arrive in this district from the United States.

NIPPON LINE ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF SERVICE.

[American Ambassador George W. Guthrie, Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 28.]

I am informed by an official of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha that the company has decided to inaugurate, as soon as possible, a direct regular service between the Far East and New York, via the Panama Canal, in order to meet growing trade requirements. This line is intended to supplement the monthly service from New York to the Far East, which is at present maintained by round-the-world steamers dispatched from Japan to Europe via the Suez Canal.

[A dispatch from Consul General Scidmore, at Yokohama, quoting statements from the Japan Daily Mail, in relation to the report that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha had been admitted to the New York Shipping Conference, was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 3, 1915.]

GUAYAQUIL MARKET CONDITIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

[Consul Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Oct. 15.]

A satisfactory activity was noted in the cacao market during September; prices were firm and advanced slightly, the resumption of operations by the exporters having the effect of sustaining the price fixed by the Asociación de Agricultores at \$11.54 per 100 pounds. The month's exports, which totaled 5,488,043 pounds, went to: United States, 1,937,473 pounds; British Columbia, 3,600; Chile, 4,634; France, 1,253,275; Italy, 180,702; Spain, 273,702; Sweden, 108,136; and to the United Kingdom, 1,726,521 pounds.

The demand for coffee was weak, the prices per 100 pounds for first-grade being \$7.27 and for second-grade \$6.84. There were exported to Chile 276,462 pounds and to Panama 41,175 pounds.

Hides were in somewhat better demand, with a tendency toward lower prices; serranos sold for \$14.96, criollos for \$14.10, and picados for \$7.26 per 100 pounds. The exports to the United Kingdom were 800 hides, weight, 18,421 pounds; and to the United States, 10,764 hides, weighing 223,304 pounds.

The price of ivory nuts was firm, shelled nuts selling for \$1.50 per 100 pounds, France receiving 135,386 pounds and the United States 10,265 pounds.

The rubber market was steady, the prices per 100 pounds during the month being \$23.50 for maroma, \$19.02 for hojas, and \$8.55 for serrano blanco.

NEW ANGLO-HISPANO STEAMER SERVICE.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Oct. 12.]

Public announcement has been made that a new line of steamers with regular sailings has been established between Bilbao, Spain, and various ports in England. The vessels will touch, after leaving Bilbao, at such Spanish ports as may offer cargo, as well as at Oporto and Lisbon in Portugal, and sail thence to Tyne, Tees, and Hull, touching at London, Middlesbrough, and Newcastle. Armstrong, Lord & Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, are directors of the lines "Frutera" and "Affriteurs Réunis" and the vessels of both of these companies will be engaged in the service now inaugurated. Modesto, Pineiro y Cia, of Santander, are the Spanish agents of the new line, which is to be known as the "Intera."

In view of the growing demand in Spain for transportation facilities, this new steamship service is welcomed as a timely assistance to the foreign commerce of the country. It may be mentioned that there is a constant demand here for sound seagoing vessels, and high prices are being paid. A vessel was recently sold in Barcelona for over \$100,000, which was valued early in 1914 at \$20,000.

When the new water system for Madrid is completed, reports Consul Robertson Honey, of that Spanish capital, it is estimated that the supply will exceed 206,000 gallons per minute and that, in addition, there will be a hydroelectric production of 21,000 horsepower (constant).

AUXILIARY RADIO EQUIPMENT ON STEAMER TESTED.

A report on the test of the auxiliary radio equipment installed aboard the Merchants & Miners Transportation Co.'s steamship *Howard* has been made by the United States Bureau of Navigation. This test was made because of the difference of opinion and the absence of any official information as to whether or not certain types of auxiliary apparatus and their sources of auxiliary power supply fully comply with section 1 of the act of June 24, 1910, as amended July 23, 1912.

The Department of Commerce believes it to be necessary that the various types should be officially submitted to tests from time to time, to furnish the desired information. The test on the steamship *Howard* was conducted from July 13 to 19, 1915, en route from Norfolk to Boston, and return from Boston to Baltimore, by F. A. Kolster, of the Bureau of Standards, and R. Y. Cadmus, radio inspector, of the Bureau of Navigation.

The Edison battery installed on the steamship *Howard* consists of 100 cells type B-4-H, W. S., rated at 80 ampere hours. This battery supplies power to run a 110-volt motor, which drives the one-half kilowatt, 500-cycle generator of the radio transmitting equipment, and also supplies power for 25 or more deck lights. The voltage of the battery when fully charged is 140. It is necessary, therefore, to have a resistance in series with the battery in order to cut down the voltage at the terminals of the motor to 110. The resistance supplied for this purpose is adjustable, so that as the battery voltage gradually drops the voltage at the motor terminals can be kept at 110 by decreasing this resistance.

One test of the battery was made, using only 90 instead of 100 cells. The initial voltage of these 90 cells after charge was about 125. No resistance was used in series.

The Bureau states that the 90-cell battery apparently meets the four-hour and six-hour service requirements of the act of June 24, 1910, amended July 23, 1912, and the London International Convention, respectively.

The motor generator set furnished with this equipment is of the inductor type. The radio transmitter furnished is of modern design, efficient, and easily operated. Provision has been made for the use of wave lengths of 300, 450, and 600 meters. The transmitter may be set for any of these wave lengths by means of a simple switch. The antenna current was found to be about 6 amperes for 450 and 600 meters and about 4 amperes for 300 meters.

Under these conditions it is believed that the requirement of 100 miles communication will be fulfilled, as indicated in the range tests conducted while en route from Norfolk to Boston and return to Baltimore.

UTILITY COMMISSION CREATED IN CANADIAN PROVINCE.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Oct. 30.]

The Province of Alberta has just created a Utility Commission consisting of three members. It will exercise a general supervisory control over all public utilities in Alberta, and also act as an advisory board on municipal improvements involving bond issues. The chairman receives a salary of \$7,200 and each of the other members \$6,000. This Utility Commission is unique in the Dominion.

AUSTRALIAN TENDENCY TO DOLLAR EXCHANGE.

[Report of Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Melbourne, Sept. 29.]

The most disturbing factor in Australian trade with Canada and the United States in recent months has been the marked variation in the rate of conversion from dollars into sterling. The lowest rate advised was \$4.48 to the pound, which represented a loss of about 10 per cent to the purchasers of goods invoiced in dollar currency. This variation has completely upset the even tenor of trade between the North American Continent and Australia. Sellers of staple lines of Canadian and American goods have been obliged to quote dollar prices, thus throwing the loss, by conversion into sterling, on to the purchaser, or, if quoting sterling prices based on a named fixed rate of exchange, having the fluctuations adjusted by the Australian buyers of the goods. This naturally has made business difficult and buyers have been operating on a "hand-to-mouth" policy. The visit of the British Finance Commission to the United States has already had a steadying effect upon exchange, which to-day is reported at, nominally, \$4.75, and consequently there is a tendency for Australian buyers to operate on quotations submitted in dollars.

PRODUCTION OF MUSENNA BARK IN THE SUDAN.

[Agent and Consul General Olney Arnold, Cairo, Egypt, May 21.]

A firm of manufacturing chemists in the United States recently asked for a sample of musenna bark (*Albizia anthelmintica*), which the firm informed me was indigenous to Kordofan, in the Sudan. I received, upon application to the Sudan Government, samples of the bark from the Director of the Commercial Intelligence branch of the Government at Khartoum. In forwarding these samples, the director informed me that, so far as he was aware, there was no existing trade in this product, but that if any demand for it appeared to be likely he would endeavor to arrange for a supply of the bark, provided details as to price and quantity required were furnished.

[Samples of musenna bark have been forwarded from the consulate general at Cairo, and will be loaned to interested persons upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 61876.]

BOUNTIES FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES.

[British Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 14.]

The bounties paid by the Australian Government during the year ended June 30, 1915, totaled [values converted to United States gold]:

Bounty paid on—	Rate.	Number of payees.	Amount paid.
Combed wool or tops, exported.....	(a).....	2	\$37,008
Tobacco, leaf.....	1 cent per pound.....	21	1,699
Fish, preserved.....	2 cents per pound.....	2	760
Fibers, flax and hemp.....	10 per cent on market value.....	15	376
Coffee, raw.....	4 cents per pound.....	8	345
Fruits, dried (except currants and raisins) or candied, and exported.....	10 per cent on market value.....	4	474

^a 2 cents per pound to Dec. 31, 1915, for the first 1,000,000 pounds made by any one manufacturer, and 1.5 cents per pound for each pound in excess of 1,000,000 pounds made by any one manufacturer.

SHORT-WEIGHT SHIPMENTS OF CASSIA BARK.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Oct. 1.]

Complaints have been made to this office by importers of cassia bark from the United States that shipments are reaching here in short weights.

Cassia bark comes from China (Amoy and Canton) and is sent to New York in bond for reexportation. It is packed in very light wooden chests of some 30 kilos (66 pounds) each, and reaches here invoiced at the original bond weight, with weight lists attached and a statement of the original tare. In one instance, on a lot of 50 cases, a total difference of 90 kilos (198 pounds) was detected in the gross weight, all the cases being intact. This difference, the importers claim, can hardly be attributed to loss of weight from natural causes, such as drying out, etc. Further, the local commission house has taken the same lot of 50 cases of cassia bark and weighed the containers separately, in order to ascertain the fairness of the charge for "tare," and claims to have found here alone a difference of 20 kilos (44 pounds).

The attention of American exporters of cassia bark should be directed to this. Competition is very keen by reason of the activities of local Italian and Portuguese agents. Prior to the European war Brazil's imports of cassia came to her almost entirely through the free port of Hamburg, despite keen competition from Genoa. Since the outbreak of the war many small local Portuguese commission houses of Rio de Janeiro have entered the field (Lisbon having also to-day a "free zone for reexportation"), and thus our American exporters of the article are placed in competition with sources of supply which seem to be serving the local market better than they.

PROPOSED NEW TAXES FOR THE NETHERLANDS.

The new taxes which the Dutch Minister of Finance has included in his budget estimates are calculated to yield the Netherlands an additional revenue of some 61,000,000 florins (\$24,522,000), according to press dispatches. Holders of foreign stocks will be called upon to pay 1 florin per thousand on their holdings; taxes on church property and pious foundations are expected to bring in 1,400,000 florins (\$562,800), on beer 3,600,000 florins (\$1,447,200), on tobacco 6,000,000 florins (\$2,412,000), and on railway-seat tickets 2,000,000 florins (\$804,000). A source of revenue that is unique is the proposed tax on all Christian names in excess of one at the registration of births.

MEXICAN BORDER CONDITIONS IMPROVED.

[Vice Consul William P. Blocker, Piedras Negras, State of Coahuila, Nov. 6.]

The situation in the Piedras Negras consular district is much improved; in fact, fighting has become a thing of the past. The passenger, freight, and other trains of the Mexican National Railroad are operating daily to and from southern points without molestation.

Many Americans and other foreigners are crossing the International Bridge daily en route to their homes in the interior, with a view to again settling down to work and rebuilding their business. Those coming out say conditions are becoming better each day.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Oct. 30.]

The city of Calgary made its initial venture in municipal ownership in the year 1900, when it purchased the system of the Calgary Gas & Water Works Co., which formed the nucleus of the present system of waterworks. This was followed in 1904 by constructing a municipal electric light plant, the amount voted being \$60,000, and operations were started in December, 1905. In September, 1908, construction of a municipally owned street railway system was started. This report will deal with each utility separately.

The Waterworks.

Calgary obtains its water supply from the neighboring Bow and Elbow Rivers. The intake on the Elbow which furnishes the city a supply of 8,000,000 gallons per 24 hours is located about 14 miles west of Calgary in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and approximately 300 feet above the general level of the city's chief business thoroughfare. The new pumping station on the Bow River, with its present equipment is capable of supplying 20,000,000 gallons per 24 hours.

A pressure of 85 pounds per square inch is maintained in the mains, and with the aid of the pumps this can be materially increased in times of emergency. A reservoir of 16,000,000 gallons capacity stands on the gravity line 200 feet above the level of the center of the city. Hilly portions of the city, at too great an elevation to be well supplied by the ordinary water service, are treated as a high-level zone and dealt with independently. Water is pumped into an elevated storage tank of 100,000 gallons capacity, from which it is distributed to said districts.

The purchase of the waterworks company formed the nucleus of the present system, which comprises over 190 miles of water mains, 13 miles of 30-inch wood stave pipe in the gravity line, 9,879 connections, 1,027 hydrants, 140 public water taps, and 12 public water troughs. The following schedule shows the domestic rates:

Number of rooms.	Rate per annum.	Additional conveniences.	Rate per annum.
5.....	\$8.00	Basin in private dwelling.....each..	\$1.00
6.....	8.50	Water-closet.....do.....	1.00
7.....	9.00	Baths.....do.....	2.00
8.....	9.50	Sinks or taps or additional fixtures, first free, additional sinks or taps, each.....	.50
9.....	10.00	Terraced lawns, per 1,000 square feet.....	1.00
10.....	10.50	Lawns or gardens, per 1,000 square feet.....	.50
11.....	11.00	Urinals.....each.....	2.00
12.....	11.50	Horses.....do.....	2.00
13.....	12.00	Carriages.....do.....	2.00
14.....	12.50	Autos.....do.....	2.00
15.....	13.00	Cows.....do.....	2.00
		Water motors.....do.....	5.00
Each additional room..	.50	Public standpipes or taps.....do.....	6.00

A discount of 12½ per cent is allowed on all flat rates if paid within 10 days of the date the account is rendered. Meters are fixed in all buildings or places where water is consumed in large quantities. The following figures show the meter rates:

Minimum meter rates per year for each private service supply: ½-inch service, \$12; ¾-inch, \$12; 1-inch, \$18; 2-inch, \$48; 4-inch, \$96; 6-inch, \$150.

Consumption up to 1,000,000 gallons per month: First 20,000 gallons, 22 cents per 1,000 gallons; next, 50,000, 14 cents per 1,000; next 130,000, 12 cents per 1,000; next 300,000, 10 cents per 1,000; next 500,000, 8 cents per 1,000.

Special manufacturers' rates for consuming over 1,000,000 gallons per month: First 1,000,000 gallons, 8 cents per 1,000 gallons; second 1,000,000, 7 cents per 1,000; all over 2,000,000, 6 cents per 1,000.

A discount of 12½ per cent is allowed on all meter rates if paid within 10 days of the date the account is rendered.

Last year's balance sheet shows the following satisfactory results:

Revenue	\$398, 421. 76
Expenditure	364, 709. 66
Surplus	33, 712. 10

In addition to the above surplus this utility has paid all its debenture interest and debenture sinking fund and has provided a depreciation reserve account totaling \$458,001.32 on December 31, 1914. The surplus for 1915 to August 31 shows \$14,506.53.

Electric Light and Power Department.

The capital expenditure of this utility amounts to \$2,643,591.01. The capacity of the plant is 15,000 kilowatts. The mode of obtaining power is by steam turbine and vertical reciprocating engines, boilers being fired by natural gas, with coal stand-by.

The power is now being purchased under a bulk contract from the Calgary Power Co., a local hydroelectrical corporation which has two large generating plants, one at Kananaskis and one at Horse Shoe Falls, both located on the Bow River 58 miles west of the city, from which place power is brought by means of transmission lines.

The hydroelectric power company also operates the city's power plant as a stand-by unit, under a contract that expires in May, 1916, thereby relieving the city of the cost of being prepared to take care of interruptions.

The plant consists of over 20 miles of overhead 3-phase No. 00 copper wire and 23,635 feet of No. 00 12,000-volt, 3-phase, paper-insulated, lead-covered, underground cable; the overhead line is carried on a graded 45-foot lead, also the necessary cross arms, insulators, pole-top switches, etc.

The overhead lines interconnect the Calgary Power Co.'s substation with the city substation through a 1-circuit line, and also connect the power company's substation with the city's generating station through two separate 3-phase lines, also one loop line 14 miles in length.

The underground cable of this system interconnects the generating station and the city's new substation through two separate 3-phase cables, each cable being of sufficient capacity for the station, so that in case of trouble on either cable the other is capable of carrying the load while repairs are being carried out.

The current is distributed throughout the city over fifteen 2,300-volt, 3-phase circuits ranging in size from 1-0 to 300,000 circular mills. Underground feeder cables are used to supply the current to the center of distribution of the most important lighting circuits, with the object of making the source of supply as reliable as possible. The 2,300-volt system consists of 233 miles of pole line.

From the transformers the current is distributed to the customers over secondary feeders, which are mostly single-phase, 3-wire, 110 and 220 volts for lighting, and 3-phase, 220 volts for power.

The department has in service 14,130 meters ranging in capacity from 5 to 200 amperes.

Street Lighting—Substations—Organization.

The street lighting consists of over 1,600 lights, of which 830 are magnetite arcs ornamental and pendant; 200 alternating current in-closed arcs; 40 flame arcs; four hundred and forty 250-watt 6.6-ampere high efficiency tungstens; and 113 ornamental 5-light standards. The lights are placed approximately 566 feet apart on avenues and 46 feet apart on streets, except on principal business thoroughfares, where they are placed at intervals of about 90 feet. They are fed and controlled by 25 separate circuits and light about 200 miles of the city's streets and avenues.

Two substations were constructed and equipped in 1912. One is located at Ogden, near the entrance to the Canadian Pacific Railroad shops, and the other at Seventh Street West and Ninth Avenue.

The Ogden substation has a transformer capacity of 3,000 kilowatts. The equipment consists of six 500-kilowatt, 1,200-volt, single-phase step-down transformers; one 500 and one 300 kilowatt motor generator sets; one arc-light regulator, together with necessary switching equipment and control apparatus.

The Ninth Avenue and Seventh Street west substation has a transforming capacity of 6,000 kilovolt-amperes and direct-current generating capacity of 2,000 kilowatts. The equipment consists of two 3,000-kilowatt-ampere, 3-phase, 12,000-volt transformers and two 1,000-kilowatt motor-generator sets, 7 arc-light regulators, and also the necessary automatic voltage regulators, switching equipment, etc.

During 1912 the department was rigorously reorganized by the city electrical engineer, who appointed competent officers to take charge of each important branch of the department, these officers being held entirely responsible for the efficient execution of all matters under their jurisdiction.

A clerk of works was delegated to keep a record of all time and material on each job and file a copy of same in the office, so that it is always available for reference.

Distribution Record System.

Plans have been made of the distributing system, showing all primary lines and location of transformers; a complete filing-record system has been installed, wherein is kept all data concerning the load and general characteristics of each transformer, together with a plan of the secondary circuit to which the transformer is connected.

Another important feature is a meter filing record card system, which shows the meter location, a curve showing its accuracy, when last tested, and also the capacity, reading, and date meter was set and first put into service.

The city plant began operations in December, 1905, with a lighting rate of 14 cents per kilowatt hour and power rate of 10 cents per kilowatt hour. By-laws have since been passed readjusting rates per kilowatt hour, as follows:

December 20, 1907, light, 14 cents; power, 10 cents. August 24, 1908, light, 12 cents; power, 7 cents. April 13, 1909, light, 11 cents;

power, 6 cents. May, 1911, light, 9 cents; power, from 1 to 2 cents, according to amount consumed; this reduction was made when the department was first supplied with hydroelectric power. August 5, 1912, light 7½ cents; power, from 1 to 2 cents, according to amount consumed. February 16, 1915, light, 5 cents, and minimum monthly charge also reduced from \$1 to 75 cents; power, from 1 to 2 cents, according to amount consumed.

The reductions speak well for general management of the department. The following statistics also prove that, in spite of the periodic reductions in the rates, the department has been able to show a satisfactory surplus each year since its inception. The statement covers the receipts, expenditures, and surplus of the department from 1906 to 1914, inclusive:

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
1906.....	\$23,166.98	\$16,518.20	\$6,648.78
1907.....	58,172.67	35,878.37	22,294.30
1908.....	85,560.65	58,777.70	26,782.95
1909.....	116,668.36	111,484.84	5,183.52
1910.....	193,099.82	170,692.50	22,407.32
1911.....	206,227.95	202,247.48	3,980.47
1912.....	384,173.32	366,382.41	17,790.91
1913.....	544,348.40	445,177.09	99,171.31
1914.....	670,512.24	592,654.28	77,857.96

This department has paid all its debenture interest and sinking fund and in addition has a depreciation reserve account, which totaled \$178,922.78 at December 31, 1914.

Calgary Municipal Street Railway.

The city of Calgary, having then a population of 35,000, successfully launched an up-to-date street railway service on July 5, 1909. For several years capitalists endeavored to get the franchise, claiming that it could not be operated at a profit. The city, however, did not give this away, but voted \$476,000 to build and operate it as a public utility, and although it was not anticipated that more than operating expenses would be received for a few years, it has been a success from the start. Beginning with 12 cars of the most modern type "pay as you enter" it returned the city interest charges and a surplus of \$10,000 for contingent account during the first six months of its operation.

This work was carried on by five paving contractors, and one track construction company which had the contract for the unpaved section, the city doing all special work, intersections and overhead, under the supervision of the city engineer and the superintendent of the street railway.

All materials and construction are of the best, tubular steel poles being used on the paved sections; the pavement is composed of granitoid, wood block, bitulithic, and asphalt; the track on such sections being laid on a sub-base of 4 inches of cement, with 6-inch ties, being spaced 4 feet apart, grouted in with cement, representing on the granitoid pavement sections 17 inches of bed.

The rails are 60 and 80 pound Lorain, 6-inch and 7-inch section, 60 feet long, high T bonded with double compressed bonds; all intersections are manganese steel, supplied by the United States Steel Co., and Hadfield's, of Manchester, England.

Overhead feeder wires are of aluminum, and all material is of the best quality, nothing being spared to make the system permanent in every particular.

After a completion of the work, as first estimated, a surplus was saved sufficient to purchase 6 additional cars, 46½ feet long, which were received July 1, 1910, giving an equipment of 18 cars. In September, 1910, a further by-law was voted to extend the line 24 miles and purchase 12 additional cars and equipment, at a cost of \$484,000. These cars were received and 24 miles of additional extensions constructed in 1911, giving a total mileage of 40½ miles and 30 cars.

The taxpayers on October 3, 1911, further indorsed spending \$375,000 to construct 12 additional miles of track, purchase 18 passenger cars, 1 scenic car, and 1 sprinkler car, add to the car barn, and equip the system with all modern appliances, which has been carried out.

With the decision of the Canadian Pacific Railway to erect their western shops in Calgary, a further by-law was passed to construct 3 miles of lines to these shops and to purchase complete six 46½-foot cars, at a cost of \$82,000, making the equipment 54 passenger, 1 observation, and 2 sprinkler cars—55½ miles of track, which, with 3½ miles donated to the city, makes a total of 59 miles. With this gift came a donation of 86 acres of a park on the Bow River, beautifully situated, wooded, and also water suitable for boating.

During the past year all the line feeders within three-quarters of a mile of the power house have been placed under ground. Two additional substations for light and power for the railway are under construction, which will increase the railway power 1,200 kilowatt hours.

At present power is supplied by two 500-kilowatt direct-driven steam units as an auxiliary and one 300-kilowatt and one 1,500-kilowatt motor generator, for which power is purchased from the Calgary Power & Transmission Co. at \$30 per horsepower year. The power department is separately operated, supplying the city with light and power, and charges the railway for such power as it uses at 1½ cents per kilowatt hour.

Trolley Fares Charged—Wages of Employees.

Five classes of tickets are used—"school," good to and from school for adults and any time for children, 10 for 25 cents; "work," good morning and evening, 8 for 25 cents; "ordinary," 25 in book form, \$1; and pads of civic employees' tickets, 30 for \$1, the latter charged to the department in which they are used. On market days a "return-from-market transfer" is granted free.

No passes are issued, but transfers are made from the different routes at 10 different points in the city, and a labor fare between 12 and 2 p. m. is being considered.

Employees are paid a sliding scale, representing, after three months' service, 28 cents per hour; second six months, 30 cents per hour; for the second year, 32 cents per hour; for the third year, 34 cents; and after three years, 35 cents per hour. Time and one-half is paid to men working on holidays. Free winter coats and half cost of first uniforms are granted, with free uniforms after one year.

A sick benefit association in connection with the street railway was organized May 1, 1912, and is composed of all the operating

staff, with proper officers and constitution. The fees are \$2 entrance and \$1 per month thereafter, one-half of which is paid to the association's treasurer by the street railway department, which reduces the cost to \$1 entrance and 50 cents per month. For this, on a duly signed certificate from the medical health officer of the city, who acts as the association doctor, members receive \$1.50 per day during sickness after four days and free private ward in hospital in case of injuries received in the service or operations.

The railway department also furnishes free club rooms, piano, pool, shooting galleries, etc., where concerts, competitions, and dances are regularly held.

Under agreement with the railway all employees agree to become members, and also, if required, become district constables, so that they maintain order on the system if necessary. The system is operated by the city commissioners, with a superintendent in charge.

Summary of Results.

The municipal street railway for the year ending June 30, 1915, shows that the net income, after all operating expenses, taxes, interest on funded and floating debts had been paid, was \$83,879.21 for the period from June 30, 1915, to June 30, 1915. From this amount there were deducted reserves and sinking fund charges, leaving the municipal street railway with a surplus of \$8,894.32 for the period covering the first year of the great world war.

The cost of construction and equipment per mile of road owned by the city is \$31,331.85. The gross earnings for the period from June 30, 1914, to June 30, 1915, were \$611,826.85. The total funded debt of the system is \$2,280,210, on which \$106,359.48 interest was paid during the period named. Salaries and wages paid totaled \$277,894.17, and total operating expenses, including salaries and wages, were \$428,797.18. The total number of employees is 272. The ratio of operating expenses to gross earnings during the same period was 70.08 per cent and of operating expenses and taxes to gross earnings 70.62 per cent.

Including main lines, siding, and turnouts, the total track of the system aggregates 71.5 miles, while there are 87 cars of all classes with equipment ready for operation.

The total number of passengers carried during the period, including both fare and transfer, reached the enormous number of 19,073,278.

The operating expenses per car mile were 15.191 cents, while the car earnings per car mile were 21.328 cents. General statistics follow:

Year.	Passengers carried.	Miles operated.	Cars operated.	Miles of track.	Number of employees.	Surplus.
1910	3,649,697	500,622	15	16.5	62	\$29,435.53
1911	7,175,086	501,086	22	26.5	102	87,208.64
1912	12,941,630	1,643,378	48	54	246	107,253.49
1913	16,978,658	2,648,234	65	70.5	348	69,492.82
1914	16,213,731	3,112,407	65	71.5	380	3,831.60
1915	19,073,278	3,112,407	50	71.5	232	8,894.32

Like the other utilities of Calgary, the street railway has paid all its debenture interest and sinking fund, and has also provided an adequate depreciation reserve, which totaled \$311,351.80 on December 31, 1914.

HULL OIL AND SEED TRADE FOR NINE MONTHS.

[Consul Charles M. Hathaway, jr., Hull, England, Oct. 15.]

Imports of oil seeds into Hull from January 1 to October 5, 1915, compared with those for the corresponding period of 1914, according to the Hull Chamber of Commerce, which excepts palm kernels and peanuts, were:

Articles.	1914	1915
Linseed.....quarters.....	779,940	820,191
Rapeseed.....do.....	141,839	75,474
Castor seed.....do.....	184,438	113,838
Cottonseed:		
Egyptian.....tons.....	91,031	159,974
Bombay and other.....do.....	170,672	23,288
Soya beans.....do.....	56,145	101,184
Palm kernels.....do.....		23,299
Peanuts.....do.....		6,718

Linseed in quarters of 410, 416, and 424 pounds; rapeseed, quarters of 416 and 424 pounds; castor seed, quarters of 480 pounds. Ton equals 2,240 pounds.

Extraordinary Depletion of Stocks of Cotton Seed.

Except for soya bean and rapeseed, the stocks of oil seeds in warehouse were very far below those of the corresponding date in 1914. The present depletion of stocks of cotton seed is regarded as extraordinary.

During the portion of 1915 under review 24,150 tons of oil cakes were imported, as against 18,337 tons in 1914. Exports of oil for the same periods were:

Oil exports.	1914	1915
Linseed.....tons.....	3,902	18,304
Cottonseed.....do.....	2,566	4,464
Soya.....do.....	4,014	2,033

The heavy increase of linseed and cottonseed-oil exports was mostly in the first six months of 1915. Increasingly stringent export regulations have greatly reduced the export figures for the last three months.

VALPARAISO CUSTOMHOUSE RETURNS FOR NINE MONTHS.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Oct. 6.]

The customhouse returns at Valparaiso for September, 1915, in terms of United States currency, were \$330,071 greater than in September, 1914. The revenue from the export tax on nitrate was \$2,266,620 in September, 1915, compared with \$1,640,632 in September, 1914. That imports have not yet reached a normal level is shown by the difference between the September returns from import duties in these two years—\$1,145,727 in 1914 and \$838,824 in 1915.

The receipts for the first nine months of these two years from export and import taxes, storage dues, and consular fines were \$25,115,370 in 1915 and \$35,840,340 in 1914.

INCREASED UNITED STATES IMPORTS FROM VANCOUVER.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 9.]

The record of declared exports from the Vancouver consular district to the United States for the first nine months of 1915 shows large increases over 1914 in numerous items, greatly counterbalancing the reductions that are found in some other directions. So large are some of the percentages of increased shipments that the total amount for the nine months was \$17,379,202, compared with \$9,163,490 for the first nine months of 1914. The total of wood manufactures was \$5,622,451, compared with \$4,021,635 in 1914. Among the items that made up this total were: Shingles, \$2,678,047, increase from \$1,742,128; siding, \$377,273, increase from \$109,493; silo staves, \$106,436, instead of \$2,616; lumber, \$685,399, instead of \$386,480; logs, \$706,846, instead of \$279,351. Items which were included under lumber last year are: Ceiling, \$9,298; flooring, \$63,578. Total shipments of vegetables were valued at \$29,474, compared with \$1,950 in the first nine months of 1914. Rice increased from \$44,613 to \$181,943.

Other items showing increases were: Horses, other animals, casings, fertilizers, hair, calfskins, leather, automobiles, brewers' grits, fire brick, fire clay, bullion, bonds, cascara bark, drugs and sundries, furniture, preserved fish, window glass, electrical hardware, junk, ore, paper-mill equipment, canned goods, flour, apples, preserved milk, mutton and veal, rubber, and sulphur. Declared exports of bonds were valued at \$1,161,349, with no figures for 1914.

CHINESE CHILLED MEAT FOR PHILIPPINE MARKET.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, Oct. 2.]

The first consignment of chilled beef ever exported from Hongkong left on September 28, the destination being the Philippine Islands. The shipment consists of 80 tons, the greater portion being bullock beef and carcasses of mutton. The cattle are slaughtered in the colony under the personal supervision of the government veterinarian and are chilled by a local company which has secured the premises of the defunct Oriental Brewery works. The Hongkong government has limited for the present at least the shipment of more than 80 tons at one time, but no special restriction has been placed on the export of chilled meat for the entire year. The local government allows the exportation of 500 head of cattle to Manila monthly, and 1,000 head monthly to the Dairy Farm Co. (Ltd.) for slaughtering purposes. The first shipment of live cattle to Manila will shortly be made, as the last of the restrictions have been removed.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Automobile accessories, No. 19252.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a company desires to communicate with manufacturers of automobile accessories, such as tires, gasoline, oil, etc. Correspondence may be in English.

Rubber balls, No. 19253.—A firm in Switzerland desires to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers of rubber balls used as toys for children. Samples are solicited.

Furs, No. 19254.—A report from an American consular officer in Canada states that a company desires to be placed in communication with firms interested in the purchase of opossum, wallaby, and bear skins. Correspondence may be in English.

Caustic potash, No. 19255.—A firm in Italy informs an American consular officer that it desires to establish commercial relations with producers or exporters of caustic potash. References given. Terms, cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English.

Postal cards, No. 19256.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a publishing firm desires, through its representative, to import large quantities of postal cards with views of landscapes, scenes, buildings, or localities in the United States, as well as all kinds of novelty postal cards, colored and otherwise. Correspondence is desired in Spanish.

Machinery, No. 19257.—A report from an American consular officer in South Africa states that a man desires to receive catalogues, price lists, and other information from manufacturers of machinery for making paper bags. Machines must be capable of producing paper bags from one-half to twenty-five pounds capacity, motor driven, work drab or union paper, and be equipped with a printing attachment.

Steel containers for oxygen, No. 19258.—A report from an American consular officer in Italy states that a firm desires to import steel tubes or containers for oxygen. The containers should be strongly constructed without seams, so as to stand alone, have a cover for protection, and contain 35, 40, and 50 liters of water and weigh, respectively, 62, 75, and 90 kilos. (Liter=2.113 pints, kilo=2.2046 pounds.) An illustration of the container desired is submitted with the report and may be examined at the bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68520.)

Electric meters and transformers, No. 19259.—A firm in Spain informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of electric meters, transformers, bells, electric-light carbons, lamps, and all kinds of electric specialties. Correspondence may be in English.

Diamonds, No. 19260.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Switzerland desires to sell small cut diamonds in the United States.

Knitting machinery and needles, No. 19261.—A report from an American consular officer in Portugal states that a company desires to communicate with firms handling knitting machinery and needles. Correspondence may be in English.

Stationery, paper, etc., No. 19262.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that a business man is interested in the following goods: Paper and envelopes in boxes, railway measuring tapes, rules of steel and wood, post cards, painting brushes for schools, letter scales, toys, dolls of good qualities, table bells, etc. Prices must be quoted c. i. f. Vladivostok. Russian values, weights, and dimensions are requested.

Groceries, No. 19263.—An American consular officer in the French West Indies reports that there have been a number of inquiries for the names of wholesale dealers in groceries.

Knitting-machine needles, No. 19264.—A report from an American consular officer in Spain states that a manufacturer dealing in knitting machines and accessories is desirous of purchasing quantities of knitting-machine needles of all kinds for the cotton, woolen, and silk knit industries. Terms of sale and full information requested.

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No. 270 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, November 17 1915

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ELECTRIC CABLE BETWEEN SWEDEN AND DENMARK.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 20.]

An electric cable has been laid for industrial purposes between Helsingborg, in Sweden, and the opposite coast of Denmark. It is capable of transmitting 40,000 volts. The cable itself was delivered by a German firm.

NEW SWEDISH FREIGHT LINE TO ENGLAND.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Oct. 20.]

The Swedish Steamship Co., Helsingborg-Luggude and Vola, has established a new freight line to England, known as the Swedish Line Liverpool-Manchester-Baltic. The object is to carry piece goods from Liverpool and Manchester to Sweden and eventually to Denmark and other Baltic ports, where cargoes will be received for the British West Coast. The line will consist of three steamers and will begin operations in November.

DUTCH GLASS FACTORIES SEEK AMERICAN SODA.

[Commercial Attaché E. W. Thompson, The Hague.]

The Gazette de Hollande of October 20, 1915, says that the glass industry at Leerdam, Netherlands, in which 1,400 workmen are employed, is threatened with a stoppage as a result of the total prohibition of export of soda from Britain, soda being one of the raw materials in the manufacture of glass. The stock of soda on hand is sufficient for six weeks. Serious efforts are being made to buy the soda in America, but this entails great expense. Meanwhile, a meeting of soda consumers in this country was held at Amsterdam yesterday. As a result, a committee was formed to act for the united consumers.

Further information will be supplied by the American Export Chamber of Commerce, Amsterdam.

AMERICAN TRADE FOR ONE WEEK.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending November 13, 1915, at the 13 principal customs districts of the United States, handling 91 per cent of total imports and exports, based on transactions in the month of September, 1915, were:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$38,503	\$1,464	\$1,508,933
Massachusetts (Boston).....	3,750,610	232,151	2,421,863
New York.....	20,758,285	3,100,073	50,494,743
Philadelphia.....	1,132,214	236,730	2,354,444
Maryland (Baltimore).....	398,229	16,624	4,200,419
Virginia (Norfolk).....	48,454	2,312	1,294,243
New Orleans.....	428,765	29,362	3,752,719
Galveston.....	82,593	978	4,796,255
San Francisco.....	2,910,946	78,491	2,545,984
Washington (Seattle).....	992,032	7,181	2,900,251
Buffalo.....	725,555	19,812	1,586,678
Chicago.....	677,796	142,831	83,280
Michigan (Detroit).....	698,790	47,196	3,184,134
Total.....	32,640,772	3,917,135	81,242,927

The cotton exported during the week ending November 13, 1915, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States, follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	21,273	Philadelphia.....		San Francisco.....	
Massachusetts.....	883	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	9,892
Maryland.....	12,348	Virginia.....		Total.....	154,093
New York.....	9,352	Galveston.....	63,232		
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	37,053		

METHODS OF ELECTROLYSIS MITIGATION.

A paper giving a brief general statement regarding electrolysis and corrosion, and presenting a detailed discussion of the various methods of electrolysis mitigation that have been proposed or tried for protecting underground structures, has just been issued by the United States Bureau of Standards. Methods of mitigation are treated under two heads, namely, those applicable to pipes and those applicable to the railway return system. The conclusion is drawn that while certain of the methods applicable to pipes, particularly pipe drainage and insulating joints, are often valuable, they should in general be used as auxiliary measures only, the chief reliance being placed on reducing potential drops in the railway return to reasonably low values. Where return feeders are necessary for accomplishing this, insulated feeders are preferable, because more economical.

In the last chapter there is presented a discussion of the principles on which regulations concerning electrolysis mitigation should be based, and the responsibilities of owners of underground utilities as well as of the railway companies are emphasized.

Copies of this publication, Technologic Paper No. 52, may be obtained without charge from the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

PORTO RICO SEEKS INCREASED TRADE WITH UNITED STATES.

The Bureau has received a communication from the officials at Porto Rico announcing that the Insular Government will at any time give information, gratis, to merchants and manufacturers of the United States who wish to extend their trade to Porto Rico. Communications should be addressed to G. F. Correa, Chief of Insular Government Bureau of Information, San Juan, P. R.

Besides inviting attention to what they have to offer, the islanders have also started to boom their territory by means of publications. They have recently issued a book entitled "Porto Rico, the Riviera of the West," and a pamphlet on Porto Rican coffee, which have been received by some trade organizations in this country.

While these efforts are being made to extend the existing commercial relations, Porto Rico already enjoys a considerable volume of trade with the United States. For the year ended June 30, 1915, the island shipped to this country domestic merchandise valued at \$42,306,350. It received in return from the United States domestic goods worth \$30,149,764 and foreign goods worth \$780,067.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The imports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended November 6, 1915, were as follows: Ore, matte, and regulus (copper contents), 969,248 pounds valued at \$96,111, of which 712,080 pounds came from Peru, 99,218 pounds from France, and 91,173 pounds from Newfoundland. The imports of ingots, plates, etc., totaled 953,521 pounds valued at \$168,984, of which 602,621 pounds came from Japan and 350,900 pounds from Canada.

The domestic exports of ingots, bars, etc., during the week from the customs districts named amounted to 5,820,478 pounds valued at \$1,059,324, of which 2,241,175 pounds went to Sweden, 1,652,869 pounds to France, 706,337 pounds to Italy, and 508,744 pounds to England.

NEW SWEDISH EXPLOSIVE FOR SHELLS.

[American Minister Ira N. Morris, Stockholm, Oct. 4.]

For many years a superphosphate company here has been experimenting with new explosives, and now seems to have found one warranting extensive manufacture. It is very powerful, and one of the principal ingredients is perchloride of ammonia prepared in some special way. "Kausolit," as it is called, has great explosive power and seems especially adapted for shells.

The company is erecting a new factory at Trollhattan, and it is expected to be finished early next year. Only chlorate will be manufactured there. It is estimated that the yearly production will amount to about 1,300 tons. At the old factory, at Mansbo, the annual production is about 1,900 to 2,000 tons, and plans are being made for enlarging this factory.

NOTES FROM THE NETHERLANDS.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Oct. 8.]

Coal Supply.

The coal supply of Holland is still a serious question. Ordinarily, Germany and England together supply about 7,000,000 tons for Dutch consumption, but now this source is much restricted. Germany has recently passed a regulation limiting the quantity of coal that may be exported to Holland to 80 per cent of normal, and English exports are much restricted. If reasonable freights could be secured, American coal could be sold in large quantities in Holland.

Cotton Growing in Dutch East Indies.

Cotton growing in the Tropics is a perennial subject for promotion. The latest is a small syndicate in the Island of Flores, Dutch East Indies, near Java. It starts with a Government subsidy of \$12,000. Cotton has been grown in the East Indies for many years without making any impression on the world's markets or even appearing in the official export statistics. There should be no climatic difficulty in growing good cotton in that latitude, which is between 9° and 10° south—about the same as central Brazil.

Government Fish Kitchens.

Consumption of fish is promoted by the Dutch Government by maintaining public fish kitchens, where fried fish are sold at very low prices. This encourages the native fishing industries at times when there are troubles in shipping. It also provides work in the cooking and selling, and encourages people to live on their own resources. Public demonstrators have been appointed for teaching the proper methods of cooking fish; and this subject has been made a specialty in schools teaching household economy. During June the Government sale of cooked fish was 400,000 pounds and in July 600,000.

It was proposed to accumulate cooked fish in cold storage during the week, against the extraordinary demand on Fridays, but so far this has not proved successful.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 15.]

Rubber Production in Dutch Indies.

According to reports published in the Amsterdam press, the rubber production of the Amsterdam-Tapanoeuli Rubber-Culture Co. was 50,156 pounds during the first nine months of this year, against 23,686 pounds during the whole of the year 1914; and that of the Belgian-Netherlands Culture Co. was 407,950 pounds during the first nine months of this year, against 366,700 and 363,850 pounds during the whole of 1914 and 1913, respectively.

Herring Fisheries Prosperous—Direct Cable to United States.

Official reports published in the local press show that the Dutch herring fishery is very prosperous this year. During the first nine months the catch was 110,000,000 pounds, against 73,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1914. This year compares favorably with and in some respects excels 1913, which was exceptionally prosperous.

The Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce is discussing the laying of a direct cable from the Netherlands to the United States or of wireless connection between the two countries.

Benevolent Projects for the Unemployed in Amsterdam.

A voluntary committee of citizens of Amsterdam has undertaken to supply free instruction and entertainment for unemployed people in this city. The committee's intent is to ameliorate the distress of the unemployed by providing them with the free loan of books from libraries, free access to reading rooms, free admission to lectures, museums, concerts, and classes for certain instruction; and free use of bowling alleys, gymnasiums, and swimming baths. Also, provision is made for their admission to moving-picture entertainments of approved character. The city treasury contributes 20,500 florins (\$8,241) toward the expenses of this benevolent work. Any further expenses will be met by individual contributions.

MACHINE TESTS WEARING QUALITY OF CLOTH.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Oct. 7.]

A machine for testing the wearing quality of cloth has been produced in Bradford. It may be found of interest to American firms which manufacture, sell, or use textile fabrics. Relative wearing qualities of different pieces of cloth may be determined by placing them in the machine and giving them a uniform number of rubs, perhaps 200 each. This makes it possible to compare one kind of cloth with its imitation, or to compare cloth samples of the same character from different mills.

A piece of cloth is clamped in a rigid jaw, and passes over a rubbing surface formed by dull blades set in a cylinder. This cylinder makes one revolution clockwise, then one in the opposite direction, and this is recorded by a counter as one rub. The other end of the cloth is clamped to a roller, on which is placed the quadrant, from which any number of weights can be suspended, and thus put the cloth in tension. The machine can be driven by an electric motor. When the cloth is worn through the machine automatically stops.

[Leaflets describing this machine, and others describing a hydraulic cloth-strength testing machine and a hydraulic yarn-testing machine, may be obtained by persons interested from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68059.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City
Dawson, William.....	Tosario, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 3	Itinerary being arranged.

THE RAND AS AN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTER.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunseaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, Sept. 20.]

Attention has so often been directed to the paramount importance of the Witwatersrand (the district covered by the great gold-mining industry and popularly termed the "Rand") as an industrial and commercial center, in comparison with other parts of South Africa, that American manufacturers and those of other exporting countries rightly look to Johannesburg as the great central market for the South African trade.

This favored trade condition obtains largely, of course, because of the fact that the Rand possesses the world's biggest gold industry—60 miles of continuous gold-bearing reef, studded with mines in active operation day and night—on which depends in a great measure the material prosperity of the entire country, as well as the world's supply of gold. While some of the mineral industries, particularly diamond mining, in which the Transvaal also figures largely, are adversely affected by the war, the gold-mining industry of the Transvaal promises to produce this year a record output of gold, even surpassing the high-water mark reached in 1912 of \$188,813,865. For the eight months of 1915 up to August 31 the total gold output of the Transvaal was 5,957,166 fine ounces, of \$123,144,023 value, being a gain of 425,916 ounces over the corresponding period of last year. It is thus estimated that the gold output of the Transvaal for the present year will approximate 40 per cent of the world's yield for this period.

Progress in Scientific Methods—Johannesburg the Hub.

The steady expansion of the gold-mining industry of the Rand is accounted for not only by the improved efficiency of the labor supply and the scientific methods of gold extraction employed, but by the extension of milling plants and the advent to the producing stage of several new mines, as the result of recent development. It is but natural that the existence of this great industry, with its 200,000 or more employees, and with the steady flow of gold largely distributed in wages, and its purchases of machinery and supplies, buildings and construction, etc., should have had a far-reaching influence on the Rand during the years of its rapid rise and expansion. This is well exhibited in the growth of the city of Johannesburg, which is not only the headquarters and vital center of the gold industry but long since became the largest city and the industrial and commercial metropolis of South Africa as it is also one of the most important importing centers of the world.

Not only is Johannesburg the chief trade and importing city of South Africa, as well as one of the world's greatest markets for certain lines of imported products, but in point of wealth, bank clearings, and commercial transactions generally this city has a distinct lead over any of the other cities of this country. The census of 1911 gave Johannesburg a population of 253,274, and that of the Rand approximately 500,000, although there has doubtless been a considerable increase during the intervening period. Tributary to Johannesburg and the Rand is the populous city and district of Pretoria, the administrative capital of the Union, which lies 35 miles distant from Johannesburg, while scattered throughout the Transvaal Province and Rhodesia are numerous other important towns and trade districts

for which the city of Johannesburg is the natural distributor of imported products and from which commercial center supplies are mostly received. All of this territory, as well as the Orange Free State Province (of which Bloemfontein is the chief city and commercial center) is within the Johannesburg consular jurisdiction.

SECOND ANNUAL POULTRY SHOW IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 5.]

Under the auspices of the Sociedade Brasileira de Avicultura (Brazilian Poultry Association) the Second Annual Poultry Show of Brazil was held at the Quinta de Boa Vista in Rio de Janeiro, September 18 to 23, 1915.

Some 40 exhibitors took part in the exposition, which was not crowned with quite the success that had been anticipated, by reason of three postponements, the selection of a building at the Quinta de Boa Vista, a park some three-quarters of an hour's ride from the city, and the absence of adequate preliminary advertising.

There were about 1,500 fowls on exhibition, the Orpingtons forming the largest exhibit of a single breed. Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, Black Minorcas, Campines, Gantams, and Pekin ducks were all well represented, but the heavier Asiatic breeds, such as Cochins, Langshans, and Brahmas, which are generally regarded as difficult to raise in this tropical climate, were little in evidence. The English Orpingtons are preferred here because of the heavier type demanded by the English standard. On the other hand, the American types of Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Leghorns have met with favor here, and the Barred Rocks on exhibition were really a credit to the American specialty breeders from whom they had been imported.

The birds were classified by breeds, and subclassified as cocks, hens, pairs, trios, and pens.

It is rather disappointing that American manufacturers of poultry supplies did not manifest more interest over the report transmitted by this office prior to the poultry show and printed in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 19, 1915, in which the consulate general endeavored to provide every facility for the display of American poultry appliances and products through Mr. Curtis F. Huebener, the owner of the local American Poultry Farm, of Rua da Padreira, 58, Cascadura, Rio de Janeiro. He exhibited, among other American devices, several Cyphers incubators and brooders, and in competition with several English makes was awarded the first prize on each of these machines. In all he was awarded 81 prizes on his birds and appliances, making for the establishment—which is the only American one in Rio de Janeiro—a grand total of 137 prizes won at the first two poultry shows held in this country.

The exposition was honored by visits from the President of the Republic, several of the cabinet ministers, and other Federal and municipal officials, the general tendency among Government circles being to encourage agriculture as much as possible.

[A list of the more prominent exhibitors, with their addresses, transmitted by the consul general for the use of American firms and breeders who may be desirous of entering into the South American export trade in thoroughbred fowls and poultry appliances, may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its branches; call for file 68495.]

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

ARGENTINA.

[Ambassador F. J. Stimson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 29, 1915.]

Postponement of New Petroleum Classification.

The enforcement of the new tariff classification and regulations for petroleum and petroleum products recently promulgated has been postponed until January 1, 1916, by a presidential decree of September 28. [A detailed account of the rates of duty applicable to various petroleum products was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 15, 1915, p. 218.]

COLOMBIA.

[Diario Oficial, Aug. 13, 1915.]

Duty on Reimported Articles.

It appears that it has been the practice in Colombia, at least in certain customhouses, to admit free of duty goods imported as substitutes for those previously imported and returned to the country of origin after clearance through the customs and the payment of duties. An order of the Minister of Finance of August 5, 1915, prohibits such exemptions and provides that articles reimported into Colombia, as well as those intended to replace reexported articles, shall in the future be subject to the usual import duties.

ICELAND.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Sept. 20, 1915.]

Export Duties.

A law authorized by the King of Denmark under date of September 16, 1915, provides for an export tax on shipments from Iceland of fish, fish oils, butter, wool, salt meats, sheepskins, sealskins, horses, and sheep.

An interesting feature of the law is the provision that duty is to be levied on the difference between the price of the products prevailing before the war and the present price, the amount of duty being fixed at 3 per cent of such excess value.

JAPAN.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 8, 1915.]

Proposed Revision of Customs Tariff.

Owing to the effect of the war on the foreign trade of Japan, the Japanese Finance Department has been engaged for nearly a year in conducting investigations, with a view to the revision of the customs tariff and the extension of the system of drawback and of the customs warehouse system. The new drawback regulations are to be put into effect in the near future by imperial ordinance, while the tariff revision measure, which is to include the changes in the customs warehouse regulations, is to be taken up at the coming session of the Japanese Diet.

It is stated that the general tendency of the revision, which is to affect a large number of articles, will be the reduction or abolition

of the duties on certain raw materials used in domestic manufactures, the importation of which has recently been much restricted, and increased duties on articles such as drugs and medicines, the domestic production of which has been stimulated because of the war. The tariff revision is expected to result in some decrease in the customs receipts.

SALVADOR.

[Chargé d'Affaires Henry F. Tennant, San Salvador, Oct. 5, 1915.]

Reduced Duty on Cotton Bags.

A presidential decree of October 2, 1915, in effect October 4, reduces the duty on cotton bags not exceeding 108 centimeters in length and 70 centimeters in width from 0.75 to 0.20 peso per kilo (from \$29.58 to \$9.88 per 100 pounds, inclusive of surtaxes). The duty on such cotton bags under the new customs tariff of Salvador, which is to go into effect January 1, 1916, is reduced from \$0.50 to \$0.18 per kilo (from \$22.22 to \$8.18 per 100 pounds). [Meter (100 centimeters), 39.37 inches.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

[Consul C. M. Hiltch, Nottingham, Sept. 29, 1915.]

Agitation for Duty on Laces and Embroideries.

Since the introduction of the budget law in Parliament, providing for the levying of customs duties on certain additional articles imported into the United Kingdom, there has developed a strong sentiment in Nottingham in favor of a tariff on cotton and silk laces and embroideries. The Chamber of Commerce has taken the matter in hand, and, through its chairman, has made strong representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The two main arguments relied upon by the advocates of a tariff are: (1) That laces and embroideries are luxuries and therefore should be heavily taxed, especially at this time, in the interest of economy and to discourage as far as possible the importation of foreign goods; (2) that the lace industry of Nottingham has been seriously affected by the war, and foreign laces should therefore be taxed in order to protect home industries.

URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, Aug. 11, 1915.]

Regulation of Sale of Cattle Dips.

By a decree of August 7, 1915, the sale in Uruguay of all substances for the destruction of cattle vermin is prohibited unless the preparations have been approved by the Executive on the recommendation of the officials of the animal sanitation service, to whom samples must be submitted. Application for authorization of sale must state the qualitative and quantitative composition of the product and the general conditions of its use, specifying the minimum time required to effect a cure, etc., and must be accompanied by a deposit of 250 pesos (peso, \$1.034) as security for the expenses of testing. Containers of approved preparations must bear a yellow label on which is printed in black the full text of the certificate authorizing their sale.

AMERICAN EXPORT TRADE WITH THE DUTCH COLONIES.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 15.]

Apparently a favorable opportunity exists for American manufacturers to secure a large share of the import trade of the Dutch East Indies, comprising the populous and prosperous islands of Java, Sumatra, etc.

The foreign trade of those colonies is done principally through Amsterdam. Many agencies, several of them large corporations, in this city are concerned in this trade. Some are engaged exclusively in exporting goods to the colonies. According to statements made to this consulate by various agencies, they have obtained supplies hitherto from Germany almost entirely, but now can obtain practically nothing from that country. Consequently, they are looking toward the United States. Many of their wants have been reported by this consulate in "Trade Opportunities," but the opportunity before the United States seems important enough to give the subject the widest possible publicity. Altogether, these agencies deal in practically every manufactured article. One corporation described its business as including "everything from needles to locomotives," and probably a thousand different articles.

The classes of goods most required in the Dutch East Indies are glassware, earthenware, porcelain, iron and steel products, and small wares generally, such as dolls, toys, and all sorts of trinkets and showy trifles, for which the demand is great among the natives and Chinese. But for many other goods a large market exists there.

It is suggested that American manufacturers with products available for export study the needs of the Dutch East Indies, and also communicate with the Department of Commerce and with the American consular officers in Holland and in the islands mentioned.

It is not essential that all the goods exported thither should come to Holland. Some of the Amsterdam agencies have offices in the colonies, with which there may be direct dealings.

Some of these Amsterdam agencies act merely as representatives of manufacturers, selling on commission; others buy on their own account, paying cash against documents, or otherwise, as may be arranged. The conditions are usually stated in the "Trade Opportunity" reports from this consulate.

SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTHS MAY ENTER AMERICAN SCHOOLS.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Sept. 29.]

There have been several inquiries at the Port Elizabeth consulate for general information concerning American schools and colleges. A specific inquiry, just received, relates to technical schools teaching mechanical engineering and colleges conducting a high-grade commercial course. Mr. Dirk Pieter Gnodde has two sons who are to be educated in England or America. Detailed information as to the two courses mentioned may be sent to Mr. Gnodde in the care of this consulate or direct to post-office box 406, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

All literature descriptive of American schools and colleges received at this office will be filed for reference.

THE PAINT TRADE OF ANDALUSIA.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Spain, Oct. 7.]

A recent inquiry into the Andalusian paint trade undertaken by the Seville consulate brought to light the fact that while the trade is principally in the hands of British exporters, still American paints are finding a market and the sales could probably be enlarged.

The importations consist almost wholly of colored paints in tins of 125 and 250 grams (4.4 and 8.8 ounces) and white paint in tins of 1 kilo (2.2046 pounds) and upward. The colors most called for are said to be white, sky-blue, black, vermilion, ochre, clear gray, green, and Bengal pink.

Special Call for Protective Coating for Cans.

Oil paints, varnish paints, and enamels are found on the market, and there is a special call for paints suitable for coating the interior of cans used in packing olive oil and for the large steel and iron tanks in which such oil is stored before shipment, the special requirement being that the paint must not affect the flavor or odor of the oil and that it must prevent contact with the tin whereby the oil would quickly become rancid.

There is an exceptionally large call for this class of paint here, and a suitable protective coating of this nature is sure to command a large sale if it can be delivered at prices that make it possible to compete with British goods. Enamel paints are now more largely used for this purpose than other qualities, but owing to their high price it would seem that some other product might satisfactorily be introduced for this purpose. The color would not be important, the only requisite being a fluid that will keep the oil from becoming rancid through contact with the metal containers.

As the exportation of olive oil is one of the most important industries of this district, and over 38,000 short tons are exported annually, how great is the need for a regular supply of protective paint becomes apparent. Paint of this nature is received here in small kegs or barrels and comes from England direct.

Color Washes Also Much Used.

The territory under the jurisdiction of the Seville consulate contains a population of 5,170,000 persons and covers 54,059 square miles, and according to the latest statistics there are over 533,000 edifices in the 48 cities and 519 towns. As the summers are hot and paint quickly fades and scales, it can be easily seen that a considerable quantity of paint is required for houses.

Buildings in the Seville district are built of brick or stone covered with plaster, which receives an annual coating of colorwash, so that there is a large call for colors, color washes, distempers, etc. Interior walls are similarly color washed, but with a cheaper quality of un-washable distempers. Black paint is almost universally used for the many iron window bars and the iron entrance doors that are found in every house, although occasionally aluminum paint is used for this purpose.

Sales Methods.

British firms usually have their agencies established in Spain, and their traveling men call from time to time showing new lines, etc.

Commission agents who wish to act for American firms suggest that the best method of entering the trade would be to give some one of them the exclusive agency, supply him with a sufficient number of small sample tins for distribution to the trade, so that dealers may become familiar with American lines (with which they are not now well acquainted), and allow him a small sum for advertising purposes during the initial stages.

There is no local prejudice against American goods—in fact, the superiority of American goods seems to be recognized; but the local business men say that there is a lack of confidence in American firms due to their insistence upon cash in advance or against documents. Such terms, according to their minds, indicate that the American business men have no confidence in the business integrity of Spanish business men; and where there is no mutual trust, especially with the Spanish people, there is little inclination to trade.

This point of "lack of confidence" is so continually met with that one becomes convinced it is one of the reasons which prejudice Spaniards against the American exporter, which make them purchase from America only when compelled by circumstances to do so, and which cause them to revert to exporters of other lands as soon as corresponding prices can be obtained.

Local Stocks—Catalogues in Spanish.

Stocks of paints are usually carried by local dealers, and it is probable that any American exporter really desiring to exploit this market would be obliged to arrange to carry a stock on hand here. Several Seville firms desire to act as agents and state that they are in position to handle the exclusive sale of paints throughout Spain, as they have agents in other parts of the Kingdom.

Catalogues should be in the Spanish language and should be accompanied by full color charts. Prices, terms, discounts, etc., should be clearly stated without such involved quotations as 50, 20, 10, 10 and 5 per cent, which are not understood by the foreign purchasers; and the trade should be stimulated by advertising in local newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines, and on billboards, theater curtains, motion-picture screens, etc.

Quoting Prices.

Quotations should in all cases be either c. i. f. Seville or f. o. b. American port, the former being preferable, but, owing to present fluctuating freight rates, very difficult to give. Payments will usually be made in drafts on London or Paris banks. British firms are in the habit of giving four to six months' credit on this class of goods, and it is probable that American firms will have to grant the same terms if they desire to secure business, especially in the introductory stages.

Prices may be quoted in gold pesetas (with a fixed value of 19.3 cents to the peseta) or in pounds sterling. The quotation of prices in dollars is not as suitable for this market as either of the other currencies mentioned, as it becomes necessary to convert such dollar prices into pesetas or sterling before a comparison can be made with the prices quoted by British firms; and as a general rule firms here will not take the trouble to convert prices accurately and use a nominal rate, which gives only approximate values.

Ordinarily, packing charges are not included in the cost of the goods; that is, the tins or barrels in which paint is packed are usually

supplied free, but outer packings are additional. As a general rule, American prices are higher than for British lines, and as the freight rates are 20 to 30 per cent higher than from British ports, the trade has been somewhat restricted.

American Packing is Satisfactory.

The attractiveness and convenience of the tin has much to do with the sale of paints on the Spanish market. The British use a patent tin that can be easily opened by prying off the lid. This is hermetically sealed when the goods are packed, and the lid can be replaced when the paint is partially used and the remainder thereby kept fresh. A small square or diamond on the label shows the color of the contents of the tin, and as a general rule the entire top of the can is painted with the same color. The 125 and 250 gram tins are usually packed two dozen to the case.

The complaint of "poor packing" by Americans, which has been so much a subject of report from abroad, does not seem to be considered here. During the two years the writer has been stationed in Seville no complaints of poor packing have arisen, and it is probably true that most of the firms now doing an export business in the United States have learned that careful packing is necessary for over-sea cargoes. Such shipments as have come directly under the writer's notice have been exceptionally well packed. The quality of wood used in American packing cases appears to be better than that usually employed by exporters in other countries. Cases are usually carefully strapped when necessary, and the used cases frequently command a better price when sold locally than those from other places, and the wood is sought after by local carpenters for various purposes.

[The addresses of four paint dealers in Seville, and, in addition, a list of the firms mentioned in the foregoing report as having inquired for paints at the Seville consulate, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68478.]

EXPOSITION OF JAPANESE PRODUCTS IN CHILE.

[Ambassador Henry P. Fletcher, Santiago, Oct. 1.]

An exposition of Japanese products was opened in Santiago on September 3, to continue until the end of October. The exposition was organized by Japanese business men, under the leadership of the president of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, with a view to taking advantage of present conditions to introduce Japanese goods into Chile. Another object of the exposition is to discover the particular products that can most advantageously be shipped to this country on the return trip of the steamers which carry nitrate to Japan. If such products can find a market here, an increased shipment of nitrate will be possible. Thus far the sale of utilitarian articles, such as cottons and silks, has been very successful.

The exposition is being held in buildings loaned by the Government, and the formal opening was attended by the President of Chile, the cabinet, and most of the members of the diplomatic corps. All the exhibits are offered for sale, and those articles that are not sold and do not remain in the country will not have to pay any customs duty. Those articles sold, however, will have to pay full duty.

[Earlier reference to this exposition was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 13 and 28, 1915.]

PRICES PAID FOR ANIMALS AT SEVILLE CATTLE FAIR.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Spain, Oct. 2.]

One of the great events of the autumn in Andalusia is the cattle fair at Seville, held annually. Statistics given by the *Revista Comercial*, journal of the Chamber of Commerce of Seville, show that 105,632 animals in all were brought to this year's fair—5,781 horses, 4,664 donkeys, 4,449 mules, 8,448 cows, 22,683 sheep, 9,504 goats, and 50,103 pigs.

No figures are available for the number of sales that took place, but some information is given regarding the various classes. Only a few horses were sold, principally for riding purposes. Donkeys were sold at 30 to 35 Spanish dollars each (a Spanish dollar is now worth 94 cents United States currency). Mules of the finest strain were sold at 190 to 210 Spanish dollars; lower grade animals at 100 Spanish dollars. Young mules were sold at 140 Spanish dollars.

Cows were sold at \$81 to \$90, Spanish currency; oxen, from \$90 to \$115; heifers, 1 year old, \$87. Sheep changed hands at \$4.70 to \$5, but were scarce, as farmers prefer to sell these animals on the farms. Milk goats, of which there were a considerable number of good quality, were sold at \$15 to \$17 each. Goats for killing purposes brought \$4 to \$4.50, and male goats changed hands at \$8 to \$9.

Pigs, which are raised in great numbers in Andalusia, were exhibited in immense droves, and formed the real basis of the fair. The largest animals which arrived on the first day were sold at \$26 each. The price came down somewhat before the last day, and animals were sold at \$20 to \$24. For medium-sized pigs, prices of \$9 to \$13 were paid, according to month in which born. The average price for pigs per arroba (25.34 pounds) during the fair was from \$3.75 to \$3.80.

[A review of the swine industry of Andalusia appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 26, 1915, and a report on autumn prices was published in the issue of Oct. 25.]

NOTTINGHAM MAKES BID FOR NEW INDUSTRIES.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, Oct. 7.]

The recommendation of the industrial development committee of the Nottingham city council, that a new department, to be known as the department of industries, be created, has been unanimously approved by the council, and an annual appropriation of \$2,500 made for the new department. It is proposed that an organized effort be made to secure new industries. With that object in view, it was suggested that information be collected as to new industries in all parts of the country, so that, as occasion arose, the advantages of Nottingham as a manufacturing center might be placed in a favorable light before the persons interested.

The industrial committee was empowered to appoint an experienced official for a period of two years, at a salary of \$1,250 per annum, who should devote his entire time and energies to securing new industries.

It was pointed out that the city owned considerable vacant property, and that this property should be offered at a low price, or at a very reasonable rental, for new enterprises. It was generally believed that there would be a great industrial awakening at the end of the war, and that Nottingham should be ready to take advantage of every opportunity.

AMERICAN PAINT POPULAR IN CUBA.

[Consul P. Merrill Griffith, Santiago, Oct. 22.]

American paints and varnishes are very popular in Santiago de Cuba, both on account of the excellent quality which is usually exported and the low freight rates and preferential duties.

Imports of paints from the United States into the whole of Cuba amounted in 1913 to 5,734,922 pounds, valued at \$473,327, out of a total importation of 10,206,989 pounds, valued at \$769,273. In 1914 the imports from the United States amounted to 5,017,123 pounds, valued at \$418,952, out of a total importation of 8,998,102 pounds, valued at \$661,213.

Imports of varnishes from the United States amounted in 1913 to 82,474 gallons, valued at \$70,742, out of a total importation of 96,492 gallons, valued at \$86,356. In 1914 the imports from the United States amounted to 64,080 gallons, valued at \$56,622, out of a total importation of 72,757 gallons, valued at \$66,288.

With the excellent local financial conditions and the new improvements under way on sugar plantations and elsewhere an opportunity is presented at present for the extension of American trade in this line. Some American houses have resident agents in Havana, which facilitates the filling of orders received from interior points.

[The names of the leading dealers in paints and varnishes in Santiago de Cuba will be found in the new Trade Directory of Central America and the West Indies, for sale at 60 cents per copy by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., and by the branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

"ABACAXI" AS AN ARTICLE OF EXPORT FROM BRAZIL.

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, Brazil, Oct. 4.]

This district produces a pineapple known as the *Abacaxi*, in distinction from the usual *Ananas*, a name here given to the ordinary pineapples, which is smaller. It is believed that if there were steamers making the trip from this port to the United States in from 14 to 16 days, considerable trade could be developed in the exportation of abacaxis during the season—October, November, and December.

This consulate has made an investigation as to the cost of marketing abacaxi. It estimates that the cost of the fruit per barrel, cost of barrel, and cartage would make the total cost, placed on board here, about \$1. The insurance per barrel would be \$0.20; freight rate per barrel, \$0.90; other expenses, \$0.40; making total cost per barrel to place on the market in New York, \$2.50. This would be about 12 cents per pineapple or, including loss on the voyage, about 15 cents.

It is believed that these pineapples—many weigh 2 kilos (4½ pounds) and are exceedingly luscious—should sell for 30 cents wholesale.

On account of the low rate of exchange, this business is especially favorable. Abacaxis are now shipped to Buenos Aires, where the Pernambuco variety has a very good reputation, selling for very high prices. They are shipped there in perforated flour barrels.

Mining of chrome iron ore is active at Black Lake, Quebec Province, Canada.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

- Spinning machinery and looms*, No. 19265.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm manufacturing cotton fabrics wishes to import cotton-spinning and weaving machinery. It is stated that large orders are contemplated.
- Hosiery and knitted wear*, No. 19266.—A letter to the Bureau states that a business man in Switzerland desires to correspond with exporters of hosiery and knitted wear for men and women.
- Drugs, medicines, etc.*, No. 19267.—The Bureau is in receipt of a communication stating that a man in Colombia desires names and addresses of manufacturers of drugs, patent medicines, bottles, and labels for druggists. Correspondence in Spanish is preferable.
- Hosiery and underwear, etc.*, No. 19268.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a representative of an Australian firm is in this country with a view to establishing commercial relations with manufacturers of hosiery, underwear, ribbons, buttons, and shoes for women and children.
- Acetic acid, cornstarch, etc.*, No. 19269.—A report from an American consular officer in Switzerland states that there is a demand for acetic acid 80 per cent, aluminum sulphate, and cornstarch. Quotations are desired c. i. f. port of destination. Correspondence may be in English.
- Clinical thermometers*, No. 19270.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a merchant desires to import large quantities of clinical thermometers. References given. Correspondence in Spanish desired.
- Printing machinery, furniture, etc.*, No. 19271.—A letter to the Bureau from a business man in India states that he desires to communicate with exporters of printing machinery, furniture, paints and varnishes, art enameling, agricultural implements, seeds, and first-class books for technical and trade schools. He also desires trade journals devoted to these lines.
- Slide rules*, No. 19272.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a company in the United Kingdom requesting names and addresses of manufacturers of engineers' slide rules. Considerable quantities are wanted.
- Rice and flour mills, etc.*, No. 19273.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commission merchant in Porto Rico stating that he desires names of manufacturers and exporters of rice, flour mill, and packing house products, with a view to becoming a representative.
- Furniture*, No. 19274.—A letter to the Bureau states a business man in Colombia desires catalogues, price lists, and full information on cane chairs and low-priced furniture.
- Spool cotton, hosiery, etc.*, No. 19275.—A commercial agent of the Bureau writes that a representative of a firm in the Netherlands is in this country to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of spool cotton, serges for men and women, linings, hosiery, silk goods, buttons, woolen underwear, and dress shields.
- Insurance*, No. 19276.—An American consular officer in the Dominican Republic reports that a man desires to correspond with fire, accident, and life insurance companies which would care to do business in that country. Correspondence may be in English.
- Gilt silver thread*, No. 19277.—A report from an American consular officer states that a company in India desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of gilt silver thread. A sample of the thread desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68516.)
- Nursery stock*, No. 19278.—A report from an American consular officer in a Portuguese possession states that a man desires catalogues, prices, freight charges, and full information concerning nursery stock, such as orange, plum, pear, and apple trees and berry stock, especially gooseberry.
- Stationery articles*, No. 19279.—A firm in Italy informs an American consular officer that it desires to correspond with manufacturers of paper, pens, penholders, pencils, erasers, cutlery, typewriter ribbons, stamp pads, and other stationery articles. Samples are requested wherever possible. Correspondence may be in English.

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EXPORT DUTY ON MINERALS AND PETROLEUM IN PERU.

[Telegram from Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, received Nov. 15, 1915.]

A law levying an export duty on gold, silver, lead, copper, and other metals, and on borax and petroleum was enacted November 14. [It is supposed that this measure is the one which has been under discussion for some time and which was referred to in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 23, 1915 (p. 342). Upon receipt of a detailed report by mail, a further article will appear in *COMMERCE REPORTS*.]

FRENCH EMBARGO DECREES AND SUSPENSION OF DUTIES.

[Telegram from Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, Nov. 13, 1915.]

A decree of November 9 suspends import duties on eggs, poultry, and fresh or salt butter. A decree of November 6 prohibits the exportation from French colonies and protectorates, except Tunis and Morocco, of stone fruits, bones, carbonate of soda, acetate, and pyrolignite of lime. A decree of November 11 prohibits the exportation from France of the following articles: Pepper, ground emery, natural corundum in grains or powder, artificial corundum (alundum), carborundum, and manufactures of these substances, such as whetstones, emery wheels, paper, cloth, or other articles. These prohibitions are subject to the usual exceptions.

[The duties suspended by the decree of November 9 are the following, stated in francs per hundred kilos and applicable to imports from the United States: Eggs of poultry or game, 10.00; poultry, 30.00; butter, fresh or salted, 30.00.]

NO SUSPENSION OF CANADIAN COASTING LAWS.

[Consul Henry P. Starrett, Fort William, Ontario, Sept. 20.]

In reply to an inquiry from the Winnipeg agent of an American ship firm, the Minister of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa denies the accuracy of the statement, recently made in the local press, that the Dominion Government had decided to permit American vessels to trade between Canadian Lake ports. [See *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 23, p. 1411.] He adds: "Unless pressing necessity later on favors suspension, there is no likelihood of any change in existing laws."

PARCEL-POST ARRANGEMENT WITH ARGENTINA.

[Announcement of United States Post Office Department.]

A parcel-post convention having been concluded between the United States and Argentina, to take effect October 15, 1915, parcel-post packages for Argentina will be admitted on and after that date to the mails for said country made up in and dispatched from this country.

Parcel-post packages exchanged between the United States and Argentina must not weigh more than 11 pounds (or 5 kilos) nor measure more than 3½ feet in length and 6 feet in length and girth combined.

Postage must be paid in full at the following rates, viz:

In the United States on parcels for Argentina, 12 cents for each pound or fraction of a pound, and in Argentina on parcels for the United States, 30 centavos per kilo or fraction of a kilo.

Parcel-post packages for Argentina can not be registered.

The parcel-post regulations on pages 113 to 117 of the Postal Guide for July, 1915, apply to parcel-post packages for or from Argentina.

Parcel-post mails for Argentina will be made up at the post office at New York. Postmasters will cause due notice of the foregoing to be taken at their offices and the widest possible publicity given thereto.

MOVIES USED TO ADVERTISE BOLIVIA'S INDUSTRIES.

The Republic of Bolivia, in South America, is the first foreign country to make use of the movies in advertising its industries among the business men of the United States. Four reels of films have been prepared, based upon subjects that are intended to give some idea of the wealth, resources, and business activities and customs of that nation, and these have already been shown to several organizations of American business men, through the courtesy of the Bolivian minister at Washington.

The Chicago branch office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has had several opportunities to present these views before important clubs and associations, and a notable degree of interest was aroused. This is the first time that any considerable number of American business men have been able to observe the actual daily conditions under which the activities of one of the South American nations take place.

The film and the lantern slide are both being used by the Bureau to bring the various sections of this country into touch with the foreign-trade work, for the views relating to the work of the Bureau itself have been cordially received when exhibited by the various branch offices throughout the United States.

American Hospital Supplies for China.

Recent sales of American goods at Amoy, China, accomplished through Foreign Trade Opportunities by Consul Lester Maynard, included hospital supplies as follows: One 30-horsepower boiler, 5-horsepower engine, washing machine, 2 steam-jacketed rice cookers, steam pump, steam hot-water heater, kitchen range, and sundry hardware. A sterilizer, surgical instruments, etc., to the value of \$1,000 were purchased for an operating room.

MEXICAN OIL DEVELOPMENTS.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Tampico, Nov. 4.]

During October a well of approximately 10,000 barrels was brought in by the Compania Petrolera Hispana-Mexicana, S. A. It is in the Panuco district, adjoining the Harmon and Dutch Shell gushers. A small flow of oil was struck at 2,070 feet and the main bulk 5 feet deeper.

Need of Dredging Bar.

A month has passed since the conference between the representatives of the oil companies and the Mexican Government officials in which it was decided to have the Mexican dredge *Tampico* proceed to Tampico immediately, and nothing has yet been accomplished toward dredging the bar. The dredge is at Frontera undergoing repairs and is expected to arrive in Tampico soon. The channel in the river has reduced the bar to about 20 feet, and the pilots are taking out steamers drawing as much as 19½ feet, or 2½ feet more than they would allow a month ago.

Crude-Oil Shipments to the United States.

Crude oil shipments to the United States for October amounted to 986,616 barrels as compared with 886,245 during October last year, and 1,032,704 during October, 1913. Shipments in barrels were as follows: 109,693 to Port Arthur, 105,820 to Philadelphia, 87,731 to Tampa, 85,039 to Galveston, 78,000 to Baltimore, 78,000 to Sabine, Tex., 68,672 to New Orleans, 63,064 to Lynchburg, Tex., 62,000 to Perth Amboy, N. J., 58,000 to Port Aransas, Tex., 41,000 to New York, 40,000 to Portland, Me., 38,428 to Norfolk, 20,000 to Ponce, Porto Rico, 20,000 to Key West, 16,169 to Freeport, Tex., and 15,000 to Baton Rouge, La. There was also a shipment of 30,000 barrels to Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Penn-Mex Fuel Co. and the Compania Mexicana de Petroleo El Aguila, S. A., shipped 681,968 barrels to United States ports from Tuxpam, Mexico. The Penn-Mex Fuel Co. shipped 251,948 barrels to New York; 64,017 to Baton Rouge, La.; 62,385 to Sabine, Tex.; and 22,860 to Campana, Argentina. Shipments of Cia. Mexicana de Petroleo El Aguila were as follows: 115,238 barrels to Philadelphia, 62,396 to Galveston, 28,294 to Jacksonville, 24,829 to New York, 22,000 to Port Tampa, 20,000 to Sabine, and 7,000 to Warners, N. J.

In addition a number of shipments were made to Europe and to the company's refinery at Minatitlan, Mexico.

RUSSIAN FUR DEALERS.

Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, at Petrograd, has transmitted a list of Russian fur dealers who attend each year the great fair at Nizhni Novgorod. The list shows their addresses at the fair, which ordinarily lasts from about July 25 to September 22, and also their addresses during the remainder of the year. The Nizhni Novgorod addresses are usually the same from year to year. The list may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 792.

SPANISH RAISIN, WINE, AND OLIVE OIL YIELD.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Valencia, Spain, Oct. 28.]

The July forecast of the Denia raisin and Valencia wine crops of this district (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 9, 1915) is generally confirmed by official statistics announced in the government *Buletín de Agricultura Técnica y Económica* for September, 1915.

As regards raisins, and the size of the crop, the situation is considerably worse than at first anticipated, it being pretty well established that it will scarcely exceed 10,000 metric tons (2,204.6 pounds to the ton). Thus it will be 20 per cent smaller than the low-level crop of 1912 (12,500 tons).

High Prices.

However, what the crop lacks in size will be more than compensated by the money return to producers, judging by the market situation thus far. The gross value is likely to exceed that of a crop double in quantity marketed at the average prices of the past three or four years unless a sudden pronounced slump occurs in the demand. The prices at which raisins have been sold up to this time are fantastic. From the season's opening they have been exceptionally good. Starting September with extremes of \$6.75 and \$9.65 per hundredweight (110 pounds) for the various grades, they finally reached \$8.68 and \$13.50, respectively; and though some inferior qualities are still quoted at the lowest figure, select fruit remains firm at the higher rates.

This situation is without precedent in the annals of the trade, and, though it seems impossible for prices to go higher, some producers hesitate to release their holdings, fearing to lose a possible further advantage of which they have a vision in the continued English demand at prices ranging from 70s. to 91s. (\$17.03 to \$22.14) per hundredweight for half and quarter boxes.

The causes of this abnormal situation have less to do with crop shortage than with circumstances over which producers and traders have no control. It is believed that a much larger crop, if available, would prove highly profitable this season.

The short crop has had some influence on the raisin situation, of course. It caused much speculation, but its effects were probably beneficial through holding in check the speculative spirit among producers, which is manifested more or less every season whenever the market shows sustained upward tendencies.

Raisin shipments thus far are 53 per cent behind those of last season on this date, the figures being 4,205 against 9,063 tons. The statistics show only 1 per cent exported to the United States and 3 per cent to Canada.

Short National Yield of Wine—Combating the Phylloxera.

The national statistics on wine production show a 37 per cent decline in the yield of must this year over last, the respective figures being 10,112,481 and 16,167,940 hectoliters (267,141,916 and 427,109,279 gallons). This district, however (as appears from the same statistics), seems to have given a yield little less than last year, the difference being between 1 and 2 per cent only.

The small national yield, coupled with equally bad results in France and Algeria, resulted in a sharp advance of Spanish wine, so that present business and winter prospects are more favorable from

the commercial standpoint. Wine shipments this fall to France from the Alicante region are said to exceed 5,000 tons, and considerable activity is also noted at Valencia.

Widespread invasion of phylloxera in Spain, with consequent loss of productive value of vineyards, moved the Government to favorable action on the proposal to lower the tax value of land affected. A royal order of July 22, 1915 outlines the procedure to be taken by property owners who desire to benefit therefrom.

Apropos of the phylloxera situation and efforts to eradicate it, a local trade paper quotes the Italian daily, *Il Popolo Romano*, to the effect that experiments now under way in the Province of Lecce, Italy, may result in a practical and efficacious method of combating the disease. It appears from the article in question that a farmer planted tomatoes between the vines in an infected field in the hope of deriving a larger income than the constantly decreasing grape crop would produce. A short time thereafter, as the tomato plants developed, he observed with surprise that the vines took on new life, showing signs of vigor such as they had not shown in years.

Not knowing the cause of the phenomenon, but being of an investigating turn of mind, the farmer uprooted several tomato plants on whose roots he found thousands of dead insects. This led to further investigations by a committee of experts, which is now going on. The scientific explanation is that tomatoes, belonging to the *Solanaceae* family, contain the poisonous alkaloid solanine which destroys the insect which prays on the vine.

The local paper referred to recommends a trial by Valencia farmers, especially since it can be done without much trouble or expense.

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Oct. 19.]

The Vintage in Malaga.

The vintage in the Malaga district has turned out poorly this season, the yield of must having been only about 35 per cent of a normal year. This is due to the vines having suffered from various causes, principally mildew.

Prices for wine will be very high this year owing to the demand from Algeria and France, where the vintage has also been poor. Dry wines, which usually bring 16 to 18 pesetas per hectoliter of 12 grades (\$2.96 to \$3.33 for 26.417 gallons), are selling to-day at 29 pesetas (\$5.37). Alcohols which used to be worth 120 to 125 pesetas (\$22.22 to \$23.15) the hectoliter are now bringing 175 pesetas (\$32.40). This is due to the demand for alcohol from France owing to the requisition by the French Government of the national product.

Olive Oil in Malaga.

A plentiful yield of oil is expected this season in the Malaga district, as the fruit is reaching maturity under the most favorable conditions. The general opinion is that the quality will be satisfactory in every respect. Gathering will commence the end of October or beginning of November, but until crushing is over the output can not be ascertained.

Notwithstanding the expected large yield, high prices for olive oil will prevail this year, as Spain will be looked to principally to supply the needs of the rest of the world in this respect, the crop of olives in Italy being small and neither Turkey nor Greece being in a position to produce much oil.

BRITISH, GERMAN, AND AUSTRIAN SHIP-TRANSFER RESTRICTION.

Copies of the British, German, and Austrian laws in regard to the transfer to foreigners of their national ships have been furnished by the United States Bureau of Navigation, for the use of Americans who may be interested in shipping. The information conveyed by these copies of existing laws is especially valuable at the present time, when efforts are being made to extend American ownership of ships engaged in international traffic.

A bill to restrict the transfer of British ships to persons not qualified to own British ships makes the provisions:

1. A transfer made after the 12th day of February, 1915, of a British ship registered in the United Kingdom, or a share therein, to a person not qualified to own a British ship, shall not have any effect unless the transfer is approved by the Board of Trade on behalf of His Majesty, and any person who makes, or purports to make, such a transfer after the commencement of this act, without that approval, shall, in respect of each offense, be guilty of a misdemeanor.

2. This act shall apply to British ships registered at foreign ports of registry, and to British ships registered in any British possession other than those mentioned in the schedule to this act, and it applies to British ships registered in the United Kingdom.

3. (1) This act may be cited as the British ships (transfer restriction) act, 1915, and shall be read as one with the merchant shipping acts, 1894 to 1914.

(2) This act shall have effect only during the continuance of the present war.

The scheduled countries are British India, Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia (including Papua and Norfolk Island), New Zealand, South Africa, and Newfoundland.

The German law of October 21, 1915, forbids the transference, in whole or part, of the ownership in merchant vessels that are already built or in the course of construction, to persons who are not German subjects. Contravention, or such attempt, will be punished severely, also when committed by Germans abroad.

The "Handels-Museum," the official publication of the Austrian Museum of Commerce, announced in its issue of September 9 a decree of the ministry of commerce, dated August 27, with reference to the sale of merchant vessels to foreign countries. The provisions of this decree are:

1. All legal business by which the ownership of Austrian merchant vessels shall be wholly or partly transferred to subjects of foreign governments requires special consent of the ministry of commerce. Such legal transactions closed without said consent are prohibited and invalid.

2. Transgressions of this decree, in so far as not subject to criminal punishment, will incur a fine of up to 5,000 crowns or imprisonment for six months.

3. This decree enters into force on the day of publication.

PUBLIC EXHIBIT OF BRITISH GOODS IN NEW ZEALAND.

The British Trade Commissioner for New Zealand announces that the Wellington Chamber of Commerce is organizing a free public exhibition of British manufactures to be held one week in February, 1916. It is not to be a trade fair, but an effort to educate consumers. The Commissioner suggested that the following goods would be suitable for exhibit: Stationery, toys, fancy goods, cheap clocks, bent-wood furniture, china and glass, cotton underwear and hosiery, buttons, trimmings, lace, etc. A demand also exists for such goods as furnishing fabrics, dress goods, chemicals for industrial purposes, chemical manures, and seeds.

STATE PRODUCTION OF QUININE IN ITALY.

[Consul W. F. Kelley, Rome, Oct. 2.]

For several years past the Italian Government has operated laboratories for the production of quinine for medicinal purposes, especially for use against malaria and other fevers. The Director General of the "Regie" has recently published a report upon the State quinine production during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, and it is from this report that the following data are taken:

The total receipts from this industry in the year under review were \$611,283 and expenditures \$451,304, showing a net profit of \$159,979, a sum considerably less than that realized during the preceding year, chiefly owing to the increased cost of the raw materials. The whole of this profit was devoted to scientific investigation, drainage of unhealthful districts, free distribution of quinine, and other preventive and curative measures against malaria.

Sales and Consumption.

The total sales of prepared quinine in the fiscal year 1913-14 amounted to 80,782 pounds, an increase of 1,891 pounds over the preceding year. A smaller demand from Greece and Bulgaria caused a falling off in total exports.

The average consumption in all Italy per 1,000 inhabitants was 10,077 grains in the year under review, an increase of 1,296 grains. The Province of Foggia, in southeastern Italy, showed the largest consumption (44,198 grains per 1,000 population), and the Province of Carrara the smallest (77 grains per 1,000). In the Province of Rome the consumption was 22,547 grains; in Milan, 6,960 grains; Turin, 6,019 grains; and Naples, 3,349 grains per 1,000 population.

The largest quinine laboratories are at Turin, but the rapid growth of the demand for this product has necessitated the establishment of laboratories in Rome and other parts of the Kingdom as well.

IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION IN AUSTRALIA.

[Sydney Morning Herald, Oct. 19; supplementing note on "Ideal Home Competition in Australia," in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 12, 1915.]

An ideal home exhibition is to be opened by the Governor on Monday, October 25, in the Sydney Town Hall. The exhibition is being organized by the Institute of Architects. The idea is to build and furnish a home which will entail a minimum amount of work for the housewife and to demonstrate how a home can be made beautiful at comparatively little cost to the owner. A model cottage, costing £700 (\$3,406), is to be erected on the floor of the town hall, and it will be decorated and furnished in an artistic but inexpensive manner. Several of the large city firms will also erect rooms furnished in an artistic style. The arts-and-crafts section will show over 100 of its exhibits for the beautifying of the home.

Consul General William W. Handley, of Callao-Lima, reports that the customs revenues collected at the eight maritime ports of Peru during August amounted to \$243,310, as contrasted with a total of \$186,943 for the corresponding month of 1914.

OLIVE-OIL MANUFACTURE IN PALESTINE.

[Consul Otis A. Glazebrook, Jerusalem, Asiatic Turkey.]

All olive oil made in the Jerusalem consular district, whether by the older processes or by more modern machinery, is considered as edible without refining, with the sole exception of that last pressed from the bruised berries. This, being dark and containing much of the pulp, is fit only for the soap industry, and then only after being mixed with better qualities.

Type of Crusher Used.

The old native oil presses consist of a circular stone trough elevated a little from the ground, in which a stone disk rotates around an upright shaft. This disk turns on its edge like a wheel and is operated by a horse, mule, or camel. One man is constantly stirring, removing, and replacing the olives as they are crushed, another man carrying the whole olives to the mill and returning with the crushed ones. Once sufficiently crushed they are placed where they can be filled into circular baskets that have a small opening and are quite flat. These baskets have been in use for a long time.

The older extraction method, and one still much in use, calls for a wooden box for a mold, in which a large piece of coarse goat's-hair cloth is laid. The box is filled with the crushed berries, pressed compactly together, after which the cloth is folded over the top in a cater-cornered style. These are now ready for the press. This method of crushing the olives is the oldest known, possibly dating back hundreds of years, as ruins of mills would seem to indicate.

Modern mills using imported machinery, when without power, employ exactly such a crusher; when driven by a motor, as many now are, two smaller stone disks are used, both placed on the same axle. In all cases these stones are from the local native quarries.

Primitive Oil Presses.

With the primitive oil presses, there is built in one of the walls of the room a recess just large enough to admit the baskets of crushed berries and reaching to the ceiling, with a small cistern below to receive the oil. In the center of the room is a mammoth wooden screw. A large beam extending across the room has one end entering the recess above mentioned, while in its center lengthwise is a screw in which the larger one operates.

Once the olives are crushed and filled into baskets or haircloth, they are placed one upon another in the press recess, the screw is turned around and around by means of a stick of wood run through a hole for the purpose, and the gigantic beam descends, reducing the pile of baskets to half the height, while the oil runs in streams into the reservoir below. This press, being of insufficient strength, does not at once extract all the oil, so the pressed pulp is subjected to a second crushing and squeezing and then packed away in a corner of the room until the olive season is over. It is then ground for the third time and re-pressed.

These primitive devices, while they still exist, are rapidly falling into disuse, as they are too laborious and do not produce as much oil as the more modern ones.

Modern Presses—Olives Left to Ripen.

The modern iron oil presses are either imported from France or are copies made by local machine shops. Those used where no power exists have the pressing screw operated by a long, large beam pulled by rope and tackle, while the newer types have presses operated by kerosene engines. With these metal presses but one squeezing is the rule, after which the pulp is subjected to a second crushing and pressing only for the dark soap oil. During the pressing process boiling water is poured on the pulp to make the oil separate more easily.

Since the natives are not at all particular about cleaning their mills, especially with the old type of press, the rancid oil from the previous year soon impregnates the new. Besides this, the natives commonly collect their entire crop before beginning to press, piling the berries on the flat stone roofs of their houses. The olives thus lie in a heap, often for weeks, being left until the first winter rains descend upon them—all of which is thought to help ripen the olives and thereby to produce more oil. It possibly may do so with the primitive methods, but this heating of the fruit results in a sharp and rancid product, which taste, however, the natives do not seem to mind.

Storage Methods—Shipments to United States.

A few modern mills endeavor to produce a better table oil, which they sell at an advanced price. In these the berries are not allowed to heat, and are pressed soon after being picked. The oil is stored in metal tanks, which are scoured before using, as is all the machinery employed, very sweet and clear oil being thus obtained. Some even collect the oil that of itself flows away from the crushed berries before being pressed, which is considered very superior. No methods of filtering or refining are known. The oil is simply allowed to settle and cure itself; and while it has a sharp taste when quite fresh, this taste is soon lost.

There was \$3,200 worth of olive oil shipped from this district to the United States in 1914, the invoices being certified at the Jaffa consular agency.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Sommers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Posario, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 3	Itinerary being arranged.

FOREIGN TARIFF NOTES.**ARGENTINA.**

[Boletín Oficial, Aug. 25, 1915.]

Shipments of Potatoes "To Order."

By an Argentine decree of August 21, 1915, shipments of potatoes must be placed in a customs warehouse for examination by the sanitary officials before clearance will be permitted, and such consignments will not be admitted for inspection unless the consignee be named or unless the importer or his agent assume responsibility for the payment of the storage and other charges. Shipments accompanied by certificates from Argentine agricultural experts in the ports of exportation are excepted from this provision. [For previous notice regarding sanitary certificates to accompany potatoes destined for Argentina, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 11, p. 137.]

[Boletín Oficial, Sept. 3, 1915.]

Standards for Canned Vegetable Products.

A presidential decree of August 28, 1915, in effect October 1, provides that all canned goods of vegetable origin imported into Argentina shall be subject to regulations substantially similar to those already in force for products of animal origin. The importation is prohibited of canned vegetables which are adulterated or artificially colored and those which contain preservatives or poisonous substances or which have been altered. In sauces containing more than 60 per cent of water and in other canned goods of all kinds, however, the use of less than 100 milligrams of boric acid per kilo of product will be permitted. The importation of products containing less than 30 milligrams of metallic copper per kilo will also be allowed. Samples of all products are to be submitted for analysis to the National Chemical Laboratory or a branch thereof, and clearance of consignments will not be permitted until a certificate of approval from the above office is presented. [The schedule of charges for analysis at present in effect prescribes a fee of 5 pesos gold (\$4.82) per 2,500 kilos (or fraction thereof) for the analysis of industrial products subject to inspection. For previous regulations governing standards, analysis, etc., of alimentary products, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 9 (p. 52), No. 10 (p. 95), No. 11 (p. 136), No. 12 (p. 175), and No. 13 (p. 203).]

CHINA.

[Consul John F. Jewell, Chefoo, Sept. 29, 1915.]

Opening of Lungkow to Foreign Trade.

The opening of Lungkow, Province of Shantung, as a trading port has now been definitely decided upon by the Chinese Government, and it will be formally opened to foreign trade on or about November 1, 1915. An office of the Chinese Maritime Customs will be established at once, and necessary improvements to the port will doubtless be made at an early date.

COLOMBIA.

[Diario Oficial, July 17, 1915.]

Import Duties at Puerto Córdoba.

A presidential decree of July 1, 1915, fixes at 5 per cent ad valorem the duty on goods imported into Colombia through the custom-

house of Puerto Córdoba, which is situated on the upper Amazon River.

[Diario Oficial, July 21, 1915.]

Duty on Trunks Used as Shipping Containers.

A decree of the Minister of Finance of Colombia provides that when trunks are used as containers for imported articles, if the trunks are subject to a higher rate than the contents, the two shall be dutiable separately if listed separately on the invoice, but that if any of the contents is dutiable at a higher rate the trunks shall be subject to the duty of the article on which is imposed the highest rate.

[The Colombian customs regulations provide that when the receptacle or inner packing is dutiable at a higher rate than the article it contains, the container must be separately declared and its weight specified in the consular invoice. If not declared separately, the entire contents of the package will be subject to duty at the higher rate applicable to the container. Where the duty leviable on the container is less than that applicable to the contents, the entire package is to be subject to the higher rate. It appears that this latter provision has not always been observed in the case of trunks and hampers used as containers of imported products, these receptacles having been admitted at the lower rate prescribed by the tariff for such articles.]

GUATEMALA.

[El Guatemalteco, Sept. 13, 1915.]

New Schedule of Consular Fees.

A presidential decree of September 9, 1915, provides for a new schedule of fees to be collected by Guatemalan consular officers for legalizing shipping documents, beginning October 1, 1915. The charge for certifying invoices for goods exported to Guatemala is fixed at 2 per cent ad valorem, which represents a reduction in the case of shipments valued at less than \$700 but amounts to a substantial increase over former fees for consignments of value exceeding that amount. The other consular fees provided for by the recent order are as follows: For the legalization of ship manifests, \$10; for the certification of sets of bills of lading (4 copies), \$1, and for each additional copy \$1; for legalizing health certificates, \$2; for certifying signatures of documents required by the Guatemalan authorities, \$3. [The consular fees given on p. 38 of Tariff Series No. 24 (Consular Regulations of Foreign Countries) should be changed in accordance with the new schedule.]

PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

[Diário do Governo, Sept. 8, 1915.]

Export Duty on Coffee in Angola.

The enforcement of the provisions of the law of August 19, 1914, increasing the export duty on uncleaned coffee shipped from Angola has been postponed until February 1, 1916, by a Portuguese law of September 8, 1915. From that date there will be collected on uncleaned coffee shipped through the ports in the Conventional Basin of the Kongo an export duty of 10 per cent ad valorem, while that exported through other ports will be subject to a tax of 25 per cent ad valorem. [The provisions of the original law were reported in Tariff Notes No. 14, p. 25.]

PACKING GOODS FOR VALPARAISO.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Sept. 24.]

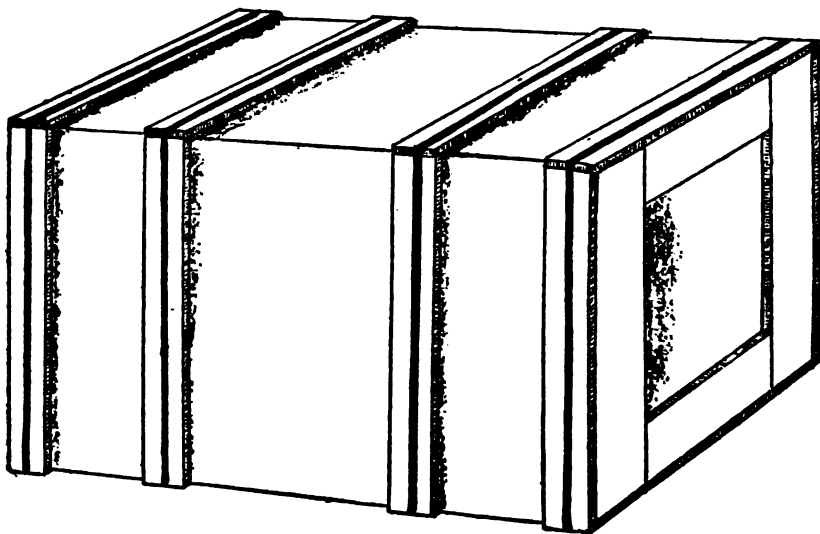
The present widening of miscellaneous exports from the United States to Chile has given rise to repeated complaints in regard to American packing.

It should be remembered, in packing goods for shipment to Valparaiso, that all merchandise has to be unloaded here in slings from ship to lighter in practically an open roadstead and again hoisted in a sling from the lighter to the wharf, and that the water is rougher at the wharf, to the extent of the backwash, than the more open water at the ship anchorage. Packing for Valparaiso, therefore, can not be done on the basis of what would be considered satisfactory strength for shipments to Rio de Janeiro or Buenos Aires, where ships are unloaded in still water and ordinarily discharge directly onto the docks.

If merchandise coming from the United States to Valparaiso without transshipment is subject to severe handling because of the methods of unloading at this port, merchandise transhipped at Panama undergoes almost twice the risk of breakage. There further seems to be so steady a percentage of loss of merchandise out of cases which are transhipped at Panama and arrive here in a broken condition that it would appear that a part of the rough handling en route is intentional.

A Satisfactory Packing Case.

At present it is customary for local importers of general merchandise to insure against theft as well as against breakage on merchandise from the United States, because improper packing allows the ends to be unstrapped, lifted, and set back without particularly defacing the case. The illustration below shows an English packing case which is stated by a local importer to be so well constructed and so well covered that it requires no insurance against theft.



It will be noticed from the illustration that the end blocking and the end battens entirely cover the joinings of the side with the top.

and bottom of the case and give the case great rigidity. This type of case is used for general merchandise, shoes, shirts, collars, haberdashery, etc.

The case is zinc lined. It is 3 feet 4 inches long by 2 feet 4 inches in height and width. The ends are 1½-inch boards, the sides 1-inch, and the battens are made of strips ¾ by 3½ inches. It is strongly iron-hooped right around the battens, and well nailed. For a case of this type the importer pays an extra charge of 25 to 30 shillings (\$6 to \$7.25) to the British exporter.

AMERICAN TRADE-MARKS IN CHINA.

[Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, Shanghai, Sept. 18, 1915.]

The Chinese buyer lays great stress on the trade-mark or "chop," and once a certain "chop" has found favor with him he will give it special consideration. For this reason there is a great temptation on the part of others to imitate an established trade-mark for use in connection with the introduction of inferior goods, the result of which is the eventual disappearance from the market of the original articles.

It is therefore extremely important that the American manufacturer seeking a market in China register the trade-mark covering his product in Shanghai through the American Consulate General and also in Tokyo, through the American Embassy, the latter action being necessary to guard against imitations by Japanese manufacturers for sale by Japanese dealers in China. As a further precaution against imitation, the American manufacturer or dealer who contemplates entering the Chinese market should so embody the name of his firm or establishment in the Chinese trade-mark that the firm name and the product become inseparable. He should also always, without fail, embody the Chinese characters for "Made in America" in his trade-mark or "chop." I can not urge too strongly upon our American manufacturers the universal use of the phrase "Made in America" translated into Chinese characters in connection with all products which they wish to place upon the Chinese market. [A previous report from Commercial Attaché Arnold giving more details in regard to this subject is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and will be loaned upon application.]

CONSULAR TRADE PROMOTION IN GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Oct. 11.]

This consulate general continues busy consulting with prospective Greek importers, furnishing lists of American manufacturers, transmitting telegrams for inquirers in Greece to exporters in the United States, and vice versa. While results are not usually known, these efforts during the last quarter year have resulted in placing orders with American shippers as follows: Flour. \$20,000; rice, \$7,350; coffee, \$20,000; tanning extracts, \$15,000; automobiles and accessories, \$4,000; electric lamps, \$1,000; corn products, \$15,000; paper, \$15,000. This does not include large and valuable cargoes of American wheat and coal brought in through established channels.

MARKET FOR HARDWARE IN WESTERN FRANCE.

[Consul Kenneth Stuart Patton, La Rochelle, France, Oct. 21.]

The hardware trade of La Rochelle district is almost wholly retail, the local industries (the manufacture of brandy, glove leather, and casein) requiring very little of such articles. The trade in foreign hardware is indirect, the supplies coming chiefly from Paris and Bordeaux. The concerns handling such ware, while locally important, are not large enough to be interested in direct purchases from abroad in normal times. Since the outbreak of the war the inability to obtain stocks from the usual sources has obliged dealers to purchase outside of the usual channels, and they would be pleased to get in touch with American concerns which could make prompt delivery.

At present enameled ware of all kinds is greatly needed. Tools are difficult to obtain, but as the local demand is small there is little to be done in this line. Nails and screws are still to be had with difficulty, and as the sale is small there is little chance of direct importation from abroad. Purchases would be made if necessary from importing houses in Paris or Bordeaux. Lanterns, which were imported from England prior to the war, are in demand, as the English supply is insufficient. Lamp chimneys are also in great demand.

The cutlery used locally is manufactured at Thiers, Chatellerault, and Bordeaux, and as the supply is sufficient for the needs of the region there is little hope that outside competition would be successful. For carriage and wagon hardware the call is negligible; but for such cast-iron products as kitchen utensils and cooking stoves there is an emphatic demand. A leading hardware dealer states that a serious American exporter of enameled ware, hardware, and lamp chimneys would have little difficulty in placing his goods, as almost any terms of sale would be acceptable. Prices have increased in most lines from 25 per cent up.

[The addresses of hardware dealers in La Rochelle district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 68352.]

KEEP CONSULAR CATALOGUE FILES UP TO DATE.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Sept. 29.]

During the recent rush to obtain certain products, the importation of which was interrupted by the war, the Port Elizabeth consulate was visited many times by those in quest of information regarding American wares. This office had in its files catalogues describing nearly every article concerning which inquiry was made. In several instances, however, these catalogues were so old and the prices quoted so obviously incorrect in connection with the present-day conditions that dependable information could not be given.

It is suggested that exporters who believe in and make use of the commercial facilities afforded by the American Consular Service renew their catalogues, with correct prices, at least once in two years. As an illustration of the necessity for this it may be stated that fully one-half of the catalogues in the Port Elizabeth consulate at the present time are of little practical use save as furnishing the names of manufacturers and exporters.

PROSPECTIVE SPANISH COAL PRODUCTION.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 5.]

From data gathered in the chief coal-mining districts of Spain it is estimated roughly that the probable production of coal in Spain during the second half of the year 1915 will amount to 2,402,000 metric tons of 2,204.62 pounds each. The quantity of coal on hand in Spain at the mines, coal yards, and railway depots at the end of July, 1915, is estimated at 250,000 metric tons. Importations are expected to amount to 1,200,000 metric tons. These amounts bring the total coal supply expected in Spain before December 31, 1915, to about 3,850,000 metric tons. The consumption during the last half of the year is estimated at 3,600,000 metric tons, which will leave a surplus of 250,000 metric tons.

The slight rise in the domestic output of coal is not in proportion to the country's wealth in this mineral, and Spanish economists deplore the fact that, with its rich coal deposits, Spain does not produce all that is needed for consumption in the Peninsula as well as a margin for export. Limited transportation facilities, lack of miners, and high railroad tariffs have militated against the development of mining, and even with the present stimulus of increased industrial activity in Spain, a larger coal output must be gradual.

CANNED-FOOD FACTORY FOR TSINGTAU.

[Consul Willys R. Peck, Tsingtau, China, Oct. 2.]

A company has been organized in Tsingtau to establish a canned-food factory which will pack meat and fruits, for both of which the Province of Shantung is famous. Tsingtau is the foremost port in China in the export of beef, and owing to the introduction of many varieties of good European peach, pear, and other fruit trees, the port also exports considerable fruit in season. The by-products of the factory will form an important feature.

The capital of the company is \$100,000 Mexican (\$39,900 gold), one-fourth paid up. The stockholders include prominent Japanese financiers and Chinese here. The chief engineer is a Japanese, who is a graduate of a fisheries school. The latest model machinery is being made in Tokio, and operations will be started immediately on its arrival in Tsingtau.

This is one of the first joint Japanese-Chinese enterprises to be established in Tsingtau, and it is believed that it will be highly successful.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Herbs and plants, No. 19280.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that there is an opportunity for exporters of medicinal herbs and plants to find a market in that country.

Sulphate of copper, No. 19281.—A report from an American consular officer in Greece states that a firm desires to establish commercial relations with exporters of sulphate of copper, with a view to placing orders at once. Formerly the imports were made in casks of 560 pounds, the usual guaranteed strength being 98 to 99 per cent pure. Quotations are desired c. i. f. destination. Payment will be arranged to suit seller. There is no import duty on this article.

Candles, tooth powder, etc., No. 19282.—A report from an American consular officer in East Africa states that a merchant desires to receive catalogues on candles, candlesticks, fountain pens, and tooth powder of a cheap grade. Correspondence may be in English.

General representation, No. 19283.—A firm in Uruguay informs the Bureau that it desires to act as agent for American manufacturers. No particular line is mentioned.

Vegetable extracts, No. 19284.—A report from an American consular officer in Norway states that a firm wishes to correspond with manufacturers and exporters of vegetable extracts for use in making bouillon cubes. Samples and lowest quotations are requested.

Photographers' chemicals, No. 19285.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm wishes to purchase the following photographers' chemicals: Corn fatty acid, stearic acid, white double pressed, 140° F., caustic soda, 76 per cent, and oleic acid, pale. Correspondence may be in English.

Patent medicines, perfumery, and light hardware, No. 19286.—A company in India informs an American consular officer that it wishes to correspond with manufacturers of patent medicines, perfumery, and light hardware, with a view to acting as manufacturers' agent. References given.

Champagne, No. 19287.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a man owning large vineyards in France desires to have a representative with an established clientele in the United States to sell a high-grade champagne. There are 700,000 bottles ready for export now, and any quantity in excess of 100,000 bottles can be exported annually. References given.

Pharmaceutical products, etc., No. 19288.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a man in his district desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of pharmaceutical products and medicines. References given. Correspondence may be in Italian or French.

Chicory, No. 19289.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a firm desires to correspond with exporters of chicory and requests that samples and quotations be sent. It is stated that 5 tons a month are required; chicory to be packed in 56-pound tins and 4 tins to a case.

Machinery, paper, etc., No. 19290.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a man in the printing business in the Dutch East Indies is now in this country and desires to represent firms manufacturing book-sewing machines; blank books; paper, bag, and box making machinery; bond, printing, and marble paper; ledger books; and perforating machinery.

Paper, No. 19291.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce informs the Bureau that there is an urgent demand in France for paper for use in printing establishments. If possible, correspondence should be in French.

Window glass, No. 19292.—A report from an American consular officer in France states that a merchant in his district wishes to correspond directly with manufacturers of window glass. Purchase to be on a cash basis. Correspondence in French is preferred.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

No. 272 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 19 1915

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BRANCH OFFICES CAN NOT OFFER DIRECT ADVERTISING.

Many requests have been received recently by the branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from firms outside of their respective districts that advertising matter which is forwarded be given to inquirers. While the Bureau and its branches are making all possible efforts toward the extension of American trade in this country and abroad, it is unable to comply with these numerous requests. The branch offices have been instructed that they are not allowed to engage in direct advertising for commercial firms.

CHINA MAIL LINE INCREASES CAPITAL.

[From Daily Commercial News, San Francisco, Cal.]

The China Mail Steamship Co., which was recently organized and has already purchased the steamer *China*, has decided to increase its capital stock from \$2,100,000 to \$5,000,000, owing to the stock subscriptions coming in, and also to the end that the company may more readily finance the deals necessary to acquiring additional steamers.

Look Tin Eli, president of the Canton Bank, of San Francisco, and president and general manager of the new company, has just announced the appointments, effective immediately, of an assistant to the president and general manager and a general passenger agent. Men who held important positions with the Pacific Mail were chosen. Head offices are to be established here.

CIRCULAR TO THE HEMP TRADE.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, Washington, D. C., is in receipt of a cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands, dated November 17, advising that during the month of October Philippine government fiber inspectors inspected and stamped 79,423 bales abaca and 2,415 bales maguey, as follows: Abaca, A, 400; B, 752; C, 2,216; D, 4,890; E, 9,011; S-1, 1,909; S-2, 1,849; S-3, 746; F, 11,411; G, 3,248; H, 2,042; I, 12,209; J, 10,889; K, 3,369; L, 10,071; M, 3,277; strings, etc., 1,134. Maguey: One, 175; two, 1,525; three 637; D, 78.

PROGRESS ON CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES.

The field work on the census of manufactures, conducted by field agents of the United States Bureau of the Census, has been closed. The work of classifying, editing, tabulating, comparing, adding, and summarizing the statistics is now well organized, and the Director states that it should proceed rapidly.

During October preliminary notices relating to the census of manufactures were issued for 55 cities, making a total of 63 since the work was started. At the corresponding date for the 1909 report similar statistics had been published for only five cities. During October 27,709 schedules were classified, making a total of 279,792 classified to date, and 17,000 schedules were tabulated, making a total of 43,000 tabulated to date.

A large number of establishments failed to make reports to the special agents, claiming in some instances that they sent their reports by mail, and in other cases it is found that the reports must be made from offices or establishments not located in the respective districts of the special agents. The Bureau is therefore carrying on an extensive correspondence with manufacturers to secure original returns and corrections for defective reports. In instances where the 1914 reports show a decrease in business as compared with that of 1909, both schedules are returned for a verification and for information as to whether or not the reports for the two years were made on the same basis.

SOUTH AMERICAN INQUIRIES ABOUT U. S. CITIES.

In response to a request from the city of São Paulo, Brazil, for information in regard to the finances of American cities, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has prepared a collection of publications on the subject from various sources, and these are being forwarded by the State Department through the American consul at Sao Paulo.

While this work was being completed by the Bureau, the American consul general at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, transmitted a similar request from the officials of that city, asking for publications on American municipal improvements, public works, construction laws, and administrative organization or reform, especially in relation to the principal cities of the country.

Consul General Gottschalk states that the request from Rio de Janeiro appears to be made in accordance with a spirit now prevailing in Brazil toward looking to the United States as a pattern in many lines.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is preparing to meet the request of Rio de Janeiro by furnishing as promptly as possible a comprehensive collection of publications of the class desired. American cities desiring to assist in the placing of such information before South American officials are urged to send their publications to the Bureau, to be forwarded to South America.

"Cantaloupe Marketing in the Larger Cities" is a new monograph for sale at 5 cents by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN TRAINING FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS.

That a young Chilean, anxious to complete his training in the schools of the United States, was willing to work his way to this country on a nitrate boat so that he might save what money he had to carry him through his first year's work is an indication of the great interest being aroused among South Americans in the educational opportunities offered by this country.

This young man was a graduate from the College of Agriculture in Santiago and wished to do post-graduate work in one of the California institutions. Unfortunately, he was not able to earn enough money in advance to make his continuance in school possible unless he could secure some employment while carrying on his studies. To save what money he had for the first half year's work, he arranged to come to this country on a sailing vessel carrying nitrates. He appealed to the American commercial attaché in Santiago, Mr. V. L. Havens, for advice and assistance, and was given letters to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, which, through its branch offices on the Pacific coast, was able to assist him in arranging for his school work and in obtaining a position where he could make enough money to continue his education.

Chilean Students in the United States.

Commercial Attaché Havens has exhibited great interest in the education of Chilean students in the United States. As Mr. Havens is himself an engineer, he has been consulted by a number of young men desiring to take up this profession, some of whom have attended schools in Chile but who desire to complete their education in this country. The bureau has been able to assist Mr. Havens by putting him in touch with a number of American institutions which furnished information regarding schools.

The commercial attaché at Santiago is a member, and the only foreign member, of a committee on foreign education of Chilean youths organized in that city. It has been decided to give legal form to this committee, because several wealthy men have promised to donate funds for the payment of the passage of students who are unable to pay their own way to the United States, and subscriptions can not be accepted except by legally organized bodies.

The late president of the Banco Hipotecario of Santiago has left a fund, of which the manager of the bank is trustee, which is to be invested so as to improve the opportunity for study by Chilean youths in commercial courses. There is a good commercial school in Santiago, but further training is desired in banking, international exchange, railways, statistics, etc.

Work of the Bureau of Education.

The United States Bureau of Education, because of the many requests for information from foreign countries regarding educational opportunities in this country, has issued a publication showing the organization of American education with special reference to universities, colleges, and professional schools; the admission requirements, with special reference to the needs of foreign students; and an outline of the general and specific opportunities to be found at our higher institutions of learning. This bulletin contains details of the courses offered by about 60 of the leading American institutions; it also

gives a list of the principal departments of schools of these institutions devoted to various branches of liberal, scientific, and professional study. For each institution there is a statement of the usual expenses. At the end of the bulletin are statistical tables giving the names of our higher institutions of learning, their location, the number of members enrolled, the number of students, the income, and the endowment. Copies of this bulletin have been furnished to the commercial attachés of the United States in South America for their guidance in answering the inquiries regarding American schools.

Activities of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.

During the visit to Chile of the delegates from the Boston Chamber of Commerce, 1913, a proposal was advanced by the Chilean Government for the cooperation of the chamber in finding places for the graduates of Chilean universities as paid apprentices in New England manufacturing concerns or industrial plants for two or three years of practical training with the idea that these young men will afterwards return to their own country with a knowledge of American methods, machinery, and products, and thus ultimately strengthen the commercial ties between the United States and Chile. The project was very carefully investigated by a committee of the chamber of commerce, which found that only a comparatively few industrial plants in New England now provide for training American students along the lines contemplated by the Chilean Government and that these courses could be extended to include foreign students as well. The committee suggested that the plan has possibilities sufficient to insure success if placed upon a broader basis.

At the Second National Foreign Trade Convention, held in St. Louis January 21, and 22, 1915, Prof. Jeremiah W. Jenks, of the school of commerce, accounts, and finance, of New York University, in discussing commercial education for foreign trade, placed emphasis upon this very problem. Prof. Jenks stated:

* * * What I suggest is this: that you take from your own establishments men who are already well trained so far as their general education is concerned, men whom you trust, whom you believe are the ones you want to send abroad in responsible positions. Keep them employed in your work on half time; say half a day at a time; or, if you like, continuously for half a year; and the rest of their time let them devote to specific study in educational institutions of subjects along the lines you wish to have them trained in. Or, if you have not just the men you wish, why would it not be a wise plan to say to the educational institutions: "If you will supply me men of the right caliber I will agree to pay them, say, \$60 a month for the time being for half of their time. They shall come into my establishment in the forenoons and do work there, being shifted from department to department during a period of three or four years, until they understand my business as well as it can be understood by an able young man in that length of time. The rest of their time, afternoons and evenings, shall be devoted to specific study along lines that I shall arrange with you, so as to give them the fundamental training they need." * * *

Prof. Jenks's plan is the broader proposal of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, which suggested that before such opportunities can be offered foreign students similar arrangements must be provided for American young men.

Cooperation of Industrial Establishments and New York University.

New York University has, in fact, opened a course in foreign trade, and a group of large industrial establishments have agreed to employ in their offices three to four men on part time for eight months

in a year. These men will devote part of their time to the university course. During the other four months they are to be given whatever employment their employers consider advantageous. The course is primarily for graduate students, but it is proposed that a young man recommended by manufacturers, merchants, or exporters will be permitted to enter even if he has not attended college. The course as outlined covers four years. The men are to be given a grounding in at least two foreign languages. Elementary instruction will be given during the first year, followed by more detailed studies in foreign trade, such as marine insurance, commercial laws, financing foreign trade, and exchange. The fourth year will be devoted to actual work in a foreign field.

Technical Training for Foreign Students.

Prof. Leo S. Rowe, of the University of Pennsylvania, has just returned from South America much impressed with the desirability of an arrangement by which young South Americans may secure positions in large American manufacturing establishments in order to gain practical experience. At his suggestion, the Secretary of Commerce has called the matter to the attention of the heads of 14 large American concerns, and in a few days the results of this preliminary canvass will be published in **COMMERCE REPORTS**. At the same time a definite announcement will be made of the plan the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has in operation for bringing together the young Latin Americans desiring American technical training and the American firms that have facilities for furnishing such training.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lestor.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.	603 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 3	Itinerary being arranged.

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CENTRALIZING HONOLULU'S PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

[A. H. Stephens, correspondent, Honolulu, Hawaii, Oct. 19.]

The Civic Center idea is rapidly becoming an actuality in Honolulu, the Outdoor Circle, an organization of some 500 women, having worked incessantly for several years with this object in view. It is now believed that the new Federal Building will be placed on what is known as the Irwin site, directly opposite the Executive Building (formerly the royal palace).

The Superintendent of Public Works of the Territory of Hawaii, with the approval of Gov. Pinkham, will follow out the same plan with contemplated additions to the Territorial grounds. Capitol Square, in the center of which is the Executive Building, also contains the Archives Building and a wooden structure known as the Bungalow. It is proposed to raze the Bungalow and to erect in its stead a three-story edifice for the use of the various land departments, including the Registrar of Conveyances, the Surveyor General, the Commissioner of Public Lands, and the Superintendent of Public Works. In the same square a "commission" building will be erected to house the many commissions that are part of the government of the Territory. It will contain a large central hall, which will be available for public meetings, with smaller office rooms for the use of the commissions.

The "Center" Will Cover Several Blocks.

It will be the work of the next legislature to make the necessary appropriations for these buildings. At its last session \$40,000 was set aside for the repair of the Executive Building and the restoration of the grounds. This work is now nearing completion.

With the Executive Building as a nucleus, the Civic Center as proposed will cover several city blocks. Adjoining the proposed site for the Federal structure is the Judiciary Building, whose grounds will be beautified as soon as work is completed in Capitol Square. Back of the Executive Building is the new National Guard Armory, while it is contemplated by the government of the city of Honolulu to erect a modern structure on another side of the square. The fourth side is well taken care of by the handsome public-library structure. Plans are afoot for the expenditure of \$14,000 in completing the interior of the armory, that sum having been appropriated by the last legislature for fitting out company rooms and making other needed additions.

SUGAR MACHINERY FOR BARBADOS.

[Consul Chester W. Martin, Bridgetown, Barbados, B. W. I., Oct. 25.]

A Barbados planter has just purchased in the United States machinery for a complete modern sugar mill to be delivered in time for handling next year's crop. The purchaser went to New York and has expressed himself as greatly pleased with both the machinery and the price at which it was obtained. Other purchases will undoubtedly follow.

Sword fishing has been active on the Nova Scotia coast, fishing otherwise being quiet.

GROWING USE OF AUTOMOBILES IN CUBA.

[Consul P. Merrill Griffith, Santiago de Cuba, Oct. 22.]

There is a constantly increasing demand for automobiles in Santiago and throughout this consular district. Most of the city and suburban roads are macadamized and, although made several years ago, are in excellent condition for either business or pleasure.

Ninety per cent of the cars already in use are of American manufacture, the remainder being chiefly Italian and French. While a fair number of high-priced automobiles are owned here, the greatest demand in this section is for a low or medium price, strongly built car with a serviceable hood for protection against the heavy rains as well as the sun.

On account of the excellent condition of the roads in this city and vicinity, the low freight rates, the popularity of American cars, and the excellent local financial conditions, now is the time for American manufacturers to make arrangements for the extension of their trade in this section of Cuba. Of course, the most satisfactory way to do this is to send out competent representatives who are acquainted with trade conditions and the customs of the people and thoroughly conversant with the Spanish language.

[Official American statistics show the following shipments of motor vehicles from the United States to all Cuba in the last two fiscal years: Commercial automobiles—1914, 19 vehicles, value \$33,500; 1915, 21 vehicles, value \$34,607. Passenger automobiles—1914, 297 cars, value \$254,428; 1915, 1,359 cars, value \$745,695. Auto parts—1914, value \$48,217; 1915, value \$101,420. The addresses of five Santiago importers of motor cars and accessories may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 68291.]

PEAT AS A FUEL FOR BOILERS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 14.]

The scarcity of coal in the Netherlands since the war began has led to search and inquiry in all directions for relief by the use of substitutes or otherwise. [The Netherlands uses vast quantities of foreign coal yearly. In 1913 the imports totaled 22,429,730 tons; in 1914, 17,946,325 tons.] Along this line, an Amsterdam newspaper prints an extract from a scientific journal stating that "turfpoeider" (peat in a powdery form) has long been used in Sweden as a fuel for stationary boilers, and that recent experiments in that country with railroad locomotive boilers show that 1½ tons of peat powder equal 1 ton of the best English coal for steaming purposes.

This leads the Amsterdam newspaper to remark that according to estimates the peat moors of the Netherlands contain at the present time fully 100,000 million kilos (about 100,000,000 long tons) of ready-to-burn peat, which is equivalent to about 75,000,000 tons of best English coal, according to the Swedish experiment, and that this fuel is immediately available. The newspaper adds that the price of "burgerturf" (a short, hard peat burning a long time) is 11 to 13 florins (\$4.42 to \$5.23) per ton, while the best English coal costs 16 florins (\$6.43).

[The peat industry of the Amsterdam district was described in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for February 19, 1914.]

INCREASED PRICES FOR SPANISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona; Oct. 4.]

A meeting of the principal Spanish sugar manufacturers has been recently held to study the outlining of zones for sugar-beet growing in Spain and to fix the price of the beets. Owing to the general increase in the value of agricultural products the price of the sugar beets was raised from 35 pesetas (\$6.30) to 40 pesetas (\$7.20) a metric ton of 2,204.62 pounds, the extra 5 pesetas (\$0.90) being credited to the profit of the grower. The actual selling price of sugar will consequently rise, but to what extent has not yet been decided upon.

Some public sentiment against the increase in the price of comestibles of domestic production has manifested itself in various quarters and an effort is being made to have the Government intervene for the protection of consumers. In September, 1914, sugar was sold in this district at 83.50 pesetas (\$15.03) per 100 kilos (220.462 lbs.) on the condition that retailers limit sales to 5 sacks, of 60 kilos (132.277 lbs.) each. Now the price is 90 pesetas (\$16.20) per 100 kilos and the limitation is removed.

The same conditions exist in regard to other products. Beans, which last year were sold at 52 pesetas (\$9.36) per 100 kilos, cost this year 68 pesetas (\$12.24); rice has risen from 35 pesetas (\$6.30) to 47 pesetas (\$8.46); domestic lentils from 54 pesetas (\$9.72) to 80 pesetas (\$14.40); onions from 12 pesetas (\$2.16) to 25 pesetas (\$4.50); and potatoes from 10 pesetas (\$1.80) to 14 pesetas (\$2.52). This advance in prices coincides strangely enough with unusually abundant local crops of these products, an exceptional rainfall which injured the vineyards having been highly beneficial to truck farms and vegetable gardens. It is hoped here that the Government will find some means to relieve a situation of far-reaching importance.

AGRICULTURE IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Oct. 15.]

The Madrid Chamber of Commerce, in the current issue of its official publication, calls attention to the fact that of Spain's 19,500,000 population 4,000,000 are engaged in agricultural pursuits—about 21 per cent. The area of Spain is 121,636,395 acres. Of these 59,305,054 are devoted to pasturage and uplands, 39,536,703 to cereals and vegetables, 8,648,654 to the olive and grape industry, and 6,177,610 to nonspecified products.

The total annual value of Spain's agricultural products is 4,800,000,000 pesetas (peseta is the equivalent of about 19.6 cents American). The compiler adds that this figure would probably be 5,000,000,000 pesetas if data were available as to wool, honey, cheese, manure, milk, etc.

During September 112 steamers, 1 sailer, and 2 yachts entered the port of Santos, Brazil—45 under the Brazilian flag, 22 the British, 11 the French, 11 the Italian, and 26 under other flags. Only two flew the American ensign. Of the total tonnage, reports Charles L. Latham, Brazilian vessels represented 30,617 tons and foreign 241,517 tons.

DAIRY PRODUCTS IN GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.

[Consul J. N. McCuna, Glasgow, Scotland, Sept. 23.]

In the Scottish milk trade, the purchase unit is the gallon, and the price varies according to the season of the year and the situation of the farm relative to the consuming market. In the case of dairy farms adjacent to towns and in populous industrial districts, the retail price varies from 20 cents per gallon in summer to 32 or 36 cents per gallon in winter, according to the district.

Within recent years creameries and cheese factories have been established in the various districts, and these very often serve as collecting depots for sweet milk, which is then sent into the consuming centers. The use of steam wagons for this purpose is proving highly economical when compared with railway charges. Most of these creameries are worked on the cooperative system, and although the price obtained by the supporting farmers may, in the first instance, be less than that obtainable by private contract, the results in the long run are usually more satisfactory.

The production of milk, butter, and cheese by dairy farmers in Glasgow and the west of Scotland has shown a decided increase since the beginning of the war. Formerly the tendency was in many cases toward producing milk alone. The war, however, has brought about a rise in the prices of milk, butter, and cheese, particularly of the last mentioned.

Dutch Holstein Cattle Finding Favor—Feeding and Labor.

In the production of milk, cows of the dairy shorthorn and Ayrshire breeds are considered the best in this district, and as the rainfall is greater than in the eastern and southern sections dairy farms are chiefly under grass. Recently the Dutch Holstein cattle have been finding favor with Scotch dairy farmers, the output of milk being very satisfactory.

The cost of feeding cows throughout the year at present may be averaged at \$3.65 per week. For farm labor (which is now scarce) the prices have increased during the war. The average wage now for a married dairyman is from \$6.07 to \$7.29 per week, including free house, garden, meal, and potatoes. The wages of dairymaids vary from \$116.80 to \$145.98 per annum.

Some indication of the rise in prices of feeding stuffs is seen when it is considered that prior to the war linseed cake (American) per ton of 2,240 pounds was about \$45.01, or \$9.73 less than present rate. The other feeding stuffs have been raised pro rata.

An interesting result of the war is the great decrease in the sale of milking machines. This is due to the increased expense of rubber and the great difficulty in obtaining Russian oil, which was formerly used as the motive power.

Spain's Wine and Grape Production.

Figures submitted by Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, of Barcelona, place the 1915 production of grapes in Spain at 1,790,073 metric tons of which 1,658,638 tons were devoted to wine making, against a production of 2,800,010 tons of grapes, 2,589,227 tons of which were devoted to wine making, in 1914. These figures would point to a clerical error in the data submitted by the consul at Madrid and published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 25, page 359.

CIGAR AND GAS LIGHTERS FOR SPAIN.

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Oct. 18.]

There would probably be no market in Andalusia for any cigar lighter that operates by turning a wheel with the thumb. These lighters were formerly seen here, but are now considered old-fashioned, being superseded by Austrian and other makes in which by thumb pressure on a knob the lid flies up and produces the spark that lights the gasoline.

To be salable here a cigar lighter should be about 2½ inches long by 1½ inches wide and ¼ inch deep—about the size of an ordinary silver match box—that can be carried conveniently in the lower waistcoat or trousers pocket, and not of the shape of a fountain pen and carried like one in the upper waistcoat pocket with the handle showing.

The sale of matches in Spain is a Government monopoly, so that no device by which their purchase is avoided is permitted unless a tax is paid. Consequently each cigar lighter that is openly offered for sale must bear the Government mark stamped on it showing that the tax of 2 pesetas gold (or 38 cents) has been paid.

The best wax matches sold at the estancos (stores where only tobacco, matches, and stamps are for sale) in the south of Spain are poor in quality and cost almost 2 cents for a box containing 50 matches—a prohibitive price for the poorer classes of Spaniards, who have very limited means; cheaper matches at 1 cent a box are even poorer quality. So that to avoid this expense many people manage to obtain and use cigar lighters; but if a lighter does not bear the Government stamp it would be confiscated and the owner fined 10 pesetas (about \$1.93).

Cigar lighters cost here, with the special tax paid, as follows: White metal or nickel, 5 pesetas (about 92 cents); silver, 12 to 25 pesetas (about \$2.22 to \$4.63).

The usual terms obtained from European manufacturers are three to four and sometimes six months from date of bill of lading, and sometimes from date of receipt of goods.

A gaslighter would be a novelty in Spain, especially one with a round file; however, the same tax of 38 cents would probably be required on each one sold, and possibly also on each renewal of the file, even though it cost only 5 cents. Furthermore, while every man here smokes cigarettas, comparatively few people use gas for lighting or cooking, so that the market for these lighters would be extremely limited.

[The names of those who sell cigar lighters in Malaga can be obtained on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its branches; refer to file 68399. Correspondence with Malaga firms must be in Spanish to be of any use.]

Blackwood Timber of India.

The Bombay blackwood, or rosewood, (*Dalbergia latifolia*) of southern India, and its export supply is described in a new Government bulletin, priced at 10 cents (international money order) by the "Superintendent of Government Printing, 8 Hastings Street, Calcutta, India." The average prices realized at some India Government sales of this blackwood is 65 cents per cubic foot for dressed logs.

SIAM'S RICE CROP AND PROSPECTS FOR NEXT YEAR.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Siam, Sept. 9.]

A report on Siam's paddy (rice) crop for 1914-15 has recently been issued by the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture. According to that report, the total area under cultivation for 1914-15 was 5,096,000 acres, against 5,286,000 acres for 1913-14, and the total yield of paddy for the 1914-15 season was 462,601,768 tons, compared with 476,681,416 tons for the preceding season.

There has been a fairly rapid increase in the rice cultivation in Siam within the last quarter of a century. Although no statistics are available as to the increase in the area under cultivation, it is definitely known that the rice exports from Siam have more than doubled during that period. At the same time, the value of the rice exported has advanced from \$1.22 to \$2.04 per picul (133½ pounds).

Methods of Cultivation and Varieties of Rice.

The plowing and planting season generally begins in April, when the rain has fallen sufficiently to admit of "wet plowing," and continues until the end of the rainy season, in October. During this time several varieties of rice may be cultivated, ripening at different dates, so that planting and harvesting can be carried on successively. The earliest rice ripens in 70 days and the latest in about 6 months from the time of sowing, but generally the harvesting begins in October and lasts until February or March of the following year.

More than 40 varieties of rice are said to be cultivated in Siam, but the so-called garden rice forms the bulk of the rice that is exported and is the best as to quality. The total rice exports for 1914-15 amounted to 1,226,269 tons, against 1,314,858 tons for the preceding season.

Predictions Regarding Crop for Next Year.

There was a lack of rain during July and early in August, and in several districts rice had to be sown over again two or three times. The planted rice showed "yellow." However, during the latter part of August abundant rain fell, and the best authorities now say that at least 75 per cent of the average normal crop may be realized for 1915-16.

[A previous statement regarding crop prospects in Siam was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 17, 1915.]

SPICES FROM GRENADA.

[From report of the governor of Grenada, Windward Islands, published in London, September, 1915.]

The cultivation of spices in Grenada is confined almost entirely to nutmegs, with their derivative mace. The area devoted to the cultivation of nutmegs is not increasing, and has remained stationary for years, owing to the decline in prices. Mace has of late years commanded a relatively favorable price, and has had the effect of making nutmegs a profitable crop. Although the area devoted to the cultivation has not been extended, the output of the island has steadily increased during the past ten years, and has just doubled during the decade. This is due to the fact that the crop of a nutmeg tree tends to increase steadily with the age of the tree. The production last season was 1,372,940 pounds, while four years ago it was 909,280 pounds.

A NEW PEAT-DISTILLATION PROCESS.

[Consul Charles A. Holder, London, England, Oct. 18.]

A new process for the distillation of peat has recently been patented in Great Britain and other countries by which coke, fuel oil, toluol, ammonia, paraffin wax, and acetone are obtained in sufficient quantities and of such high grade as to prove of great value. The process has been in practical operation now some six months and seems to promise to revolutionize the peat industry and to furnish sources of fuel oil to the British Navy which may possibly make it independent of foreign oils.

Peat, as taken from the peat beds, contains from 80 to 90 per cent of water and is of a fibrous cellular structure so that by hydraulic pressure it is possible to lower the water content only slightly. An important part of the new process is a macerator that breaks up the fibrous cellular tissue and thus allows a more complete separation of the water. After passing through the macerator the broken peat is compressed into briquets, which are dried until they contain not more than 25 per cent of moisture, and then fed into a hopper from which they pass into the retort.

Retort the Basis of the Patent.

The retort, though very simple, is the basis of the patent. It contains several chambers where different degrees of heat are applied. In the first a temperature of 300° C. (572° F.) is used for driving out the moisture remaining in the peat. In the next chamber the temperature is about 450° C. (842° F.), and here decomposition of the peat takes place. In the last chambers the temperature runs up to 600 or 800° C. (1,112 to 1,472° F.), and the oil and water are volatilized. By means of a worm screw, briquetted peat is passed in at one end of the retort and peat charcoal is discharged continuously at the other end, while from the various chambers the oil, water, ammonia, etc., are drawn off in the form of vapor and removed from longer contact with the heat.

After leaving the chambers the vapors pass through a condensing system which is so arranged that the heavy oil collects at one place and the water and light oil in the form of vapor, together with some combustible gases, collect in another place. The combustible gases are separated from the water and oil and are utilized in keeping up the temperature of the retort, after it has obtained its initial heat from coal, and they are ordinarily sufficient to carry on the subsequent processes without the addition of any further coal.

Coke of Special Value for Steel—By-Products.

The coke obtained by this process contains 92 per cent carbon, 1 per cent moisture, 1.3 per cent volatile matter, and 5.7 per cent ash, and is very hard. It can be left with a larger percentage of moisture, and in this way, since it is softer, it can be used as fuel for domestic purposes. Its chief value, however, is in the manufacture of steel, owing to its wonderful hardness and the high percentage of carbon contained. Various steel makers have certified to its great value for this purpose. From a ton of peat nearly one-third of a ton of coke, valued at 25 to 30 shillings (\$6.08 to \$7.30) is obtained.

The oil promises to be particularly useful as a fuel because of its low sulphur content. An examination of the oil showed it to be a

most satisfactory substitute for petroleum. The amount of ammonia obtained per ton of peat is estimated at 20 pounds, with a value of 1 penny (2 cents) or more per pound. Both the oil and the ammonia contain water, but this is readily removed by the application of heat. In addition to these products about 20 pounds of paraffin wax, valued at 3 or 4 pence (6 or 8 cents) per pound, is obtained, and toluol and acetone; the quantity and value of the latter have not yet been ascertained. The paraffin wax is of good quality and can be employed for candle making and other purposes.

With peat costing about 8 shillings (\$1.95) per ton delivered in the hopper, dry, it is believed that by this process a profit of not less than 15 or 20 shillings (\$3.65 or \$4.87) per ton will be obtained; and this does not include any allowance for the toluol and acetone, which may prove to be more valuable than all the other products together.

Different Results in Different Localities.

Peat from different localities gives different results, some peat containing larger amounts of volatile matter than others, and some peat having a low nitrogen content while in others it is high. The yield of oil from English peat (Yorkshire) was 26.5 gallons per ton. By varying the conditions of distillation light or heavy oils may be produced as desired. The yield of oil, gas, and ammonium sulphate can be controlled by regulating the length of time or the degree of heat to which the peat is subjected in the retort.

Of the many attempts that have been made to utilize peat this method is said by many experts to promise most.

POULTRY-RAISING APPLIANCES FOR ITALY.

[Consul W. F. Kelley, Rome, Oct. 19.]

In view of the continued rise in the prices of all food products, many plans have been formulated by the municipality of Rome and by private associations to combat the increasing cost of living. A meeting was held recently in Rome to form an association for the encouragement of poultry raising in Italy. It was stated that, although this industry is at present important in this country, by the adoption of scientific and modern methods it would be possible to bring the Italian production of eggs and poultry up to \$100,000,000 a year. At present the export of these products from Italy is prohibited, but it is proposed to organize societies in different centers to make preparations which will enable Italy to become one of the principal egg and poultry producing countries of Europe, so that upon the conclusion of peace this country may at once enter the world's markets.

This idea seems to have found general favor, and if carried out will open up a large market in Italy for incubators, coops, brooders, and poultry appliances and supplies. Offers should be made in the Italian language to the Comitato Agricolo di Roma, 26 Piazza S. Stefano del Cacco, Rome, Italy.

"Retail Ice Cream, a Bacteriological Study," a new Agricultural bulletin, may be had for 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK STATEMENT.

At the meeting of shareholders on September 10, 1915, to receive the report and accounts of the Yokohama Specie Bank for the first half of the current year an address was delivered by the bank's president, Mr. Inouye, who stated:

The country's foreign trade for the term shows a general decrease both in exports and imports. In addition to the supply of munitions of war to the friendly powers, the exports to Great Britain, India, and Australia increased considerably, and this fact had the effect of offsetting the decrease in exports to the United States and China. Imports from China and Australia increased, though not remarkably, but there was a decline in the imports from Great Britain, France, Germany, and Austria-Hungary.

The value of exports from Japan during the term amounted to 300,914,017 yen (\$149,855,180), and of imports to 288,742,534 yen (\$143,793,782), making a total of 589,656,551 yen (\$293,648,962). Compared with the corresponding period of last year, exports showed a decrease of 11,155,657 yen (\$5,555,517), and imports of 93,991,182 yen (\$46,807,609), a total decrease of 105,146,839 yen (\$52,363,126). The fact remains that the foreign trade during the term resulted in an excess of exports over imports amounting to 12,171,483 yen (\$6,061,398). This is a matter for congratulation in so far as Japan's debts to foreign countries are concerned.

Business Favorable for First Half of Current Year.

The business of the Specie Bank for the term was rather favorable, compared with the first six months of 1914, in spite of the marked decrease in the country's foreign trade referred to above. Commercial bills sold and forwarded from Japan abroad amounted to 128,210,000 yen (\$63,848,580), while those purchased were 153,680,000 yen (\$76,532,640), a total of 281,890,000 yen (\$140,381,220). Compared with the corresponding period of last year there was a decrease of 2,370,000 yen (\$1,180,260).

The gross profits of the bank for the past half year, including 1,335,248 yen (\$664,953) brought forward, amounted to 19,885,045 yen (\$9,902,752), of which 16,346,421 yen (\$8,140,517) has been deducted for interest, taxes, current expenses, rebates on bills current, bad and doubtful debts, bonuses for officers and clerks, etc., leaving a balance of 3,538,624 yen (\$1,762,235) for appropriation.

The directors now propose that 400,000 yen (\$199,200) be added to the reserve fund and recommend a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent per annum, which will absorb 1,800,000 yen (\$896,400).

From the balance sheet presented the following figures are extracted: Liabilities—capital (paid-up), 30,000,000 yen (\$14,940,000); reserve fund, 19,600,000 yen (\$9,760,800); deposits (current, fixed, etc.), 163,455,607 yen (\$81,400,892). Assets—cash account, 34,885,931 yen (\$17,373,194); bullion and foreign money, 5,124,358 yen (\$2,551,930); total assets, 324,378,790 yen (\$161,540,637).

LEGATION WANTS TRADE JOURNALS AND CATALOGUES.

[American Minister William H. Hornibrook, Bangkok, Siam, Sept. 29.]

There has been appearing in the Bangkok Daily Mail the following notice relating to the commercial reading room which it is proposed to open at the American legation:

From October 1 there will be established at the United States Legation a commercial reading room for the purpose of providing merchants and importers in Siam with reliable data concerning American manufacturers, commission houses, and exporters. American newspapers, trade journals, and magazines will be kept on file.

As soon as the legation is settled in its new quarters this commercial reading room will be thrown open to the public. It is hoped that many American trade journals and newspapers and descriptive catalogues of American products suited to the Siamese market will be forwarded.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Printers' and lithographers' supplies, No. 19293.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a merchant dealing in printers' supplies on a commission basis is desirous of corresponding with manufacturers of printing inks, paper, lithographic crayons, ink, needles, and rollers. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred but French or Italian may be used.

Caustic soda, chloride of lime, etc., No. 19294.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in the Netherlands reports that there is a demand in that country for caustic soda, chloride of lime, and alum used by cotton mills for bleaching and dyeing.

Water filters, No. 19295.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that an importing firm in the Netherlands desires quotations on water filters, with the drop system. Quotations f. o. b. New York or c. i. f. Java are solicited.

Corset materials, No. 19296.—A letter to the Bureau states that a business man in Spain desires to correspond with manufacturers of corset materials and equipment used in making corsets; also such articles as ribs of horn and whalebone, steels, hooks and eyes of all varieties, elastic webbing, rubber for garters, buckles, fasteners for same, brass eyelets, and machinery for inserting eyelets, etc. Samples, prices, and full information are requested as soon as possible.

Aluminum visiting cards, No. 19297.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a man in Chile desires quotations and samples from manufacturers of aluminum visiting cards. Samples of the cards wanted are forwarded, and may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 76.)

Brewery tanks, No. 19298.—A report from an American consular officer in France states that a brewery desires to buy four vertical 2-ring tanks, each with a capacity of about 74 hectoliters (1,954 gallons), with their accessories, and two vertical 2-ring tanks with a capacity of 16 hectoliters (423 gallons), with their accessories. Tanks are to be placed in a refrigerating room in connection with a bottling plant, and should be provided with a water level and interior cooling coils. They must be of sheet iron in order to stand a pressure of at least three atmospheres. Quotations are desired f. o. b. New York or c. i. f. port of destination. Correspondence may be in English.

Paper, No. 19299.—A letter from a man in Argentina states that he desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of metal, tissue, and transparent paper. It is requested that samples of the metal paper, giving kinds, colors, sizes, and weight of each leaf be sent, and, also samples of waxed, tissue, and transparent paper of various grades, from the finest to the most ordinary, with full information be sent. Samples of the various kinds of paper may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 75.)

Goose quills, No. 19300.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a cigar and cigarette manufacturer in Switzerland desires to purchase a large quantity of goose quills for insertion in the ends of cigars and cigarettes. Samples of the quills desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. Correspondence in French, if possible. (Refer to File No. 843.)

Red gum lumber, No. 19301.—An American consular officer in a neutral country reports that there is a demand by a government department for red gum lumber. It is suggested that lowest prices, and very best terms be given in the correspondence, which should be in Spanish, and the measurements, preferably, in the metric system.

Sewing machines, sewer pipe, hardware, etc., No. 19302.—A report from an American consular officer in Argentina states that a company desires to secure the exclusive agency for manufacturers of sewing machines, clay sewer pipe, hardware, potatoes, foodstuffs, fruits, and shoes. References given. Correspondence may be in English.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Buoys, No. 2784.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Me., until November 29, 1915, for furnishing 275 spruce spar buoys, delivered at Portland, Me. Information upon application to above office.

Construction work, No. 2785.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 28, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment, excepting lighting fixtures, and approaches) for the post office at Seymour, Conn. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site or at the Washington office.

Dredging, No. 2786.—Sealed proposals for dredging in Newark Bay and Passaic River, N. J., will be received at the United States Engineer's office, Room 802, Army Building, 39 Whitehall Street, New York, N. Y., until December 14, 1915. Information on application to the United States Engineer's office.

Motor boat, ice house, and cooking range, No. 2787.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., for the purchase of one motor boat, one ice house, and one cooking range. Information on application to above office.

Construction work, No. 2788.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 30, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at St. Petersburg, Fla. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site, or at the Supervising Architect's office.

Navy Department supplies, No. 2789.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 14, 1915, for furnishing the following materials. Firms interested therein should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving the schedule numbers desired. Schedule 9011, cedar, Port Orford, boat boards; and schedule 9020, white ash, oak logs, 20 inches square, average length 30 feet; and until December 7, 1915, for schedule 9012, reworking brass scrap; schedule 9013, wrought pipe; schedule 9014, loud-speaking telephone system; schedule 9015, tinned asparagus, tinned spinach; schedule 9016, white medium cotton canvas; schedule 9017, woodworkers' lathes, saw table (for wood); schedule 9018, marine water tube boilers; and schedule 9019, woolen socks.

Labor and material, No. 2790.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until December 4, 1915, for furnishing labor and material, unless otherwise specified, which shall be required in installing plumbing, marble, tile, and terrazzo work in Room 374 of the Patent Office Building, Washington, D. C., in accordance with plans and specifications for the work, copies of which may be obtained on application to the chief clerk of the department. Proposals should be securely enveloped and marked, "Proposals for plumbing, marble, tile, and terrazzo work, Room 374," and be addressed to the Secretary of the Interior.

Subsistence stores, No. 2791.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., Quartermaster's Depot, United States Army, Kansas City, Mo., or the Quartermaster's Depot, United States Army, Omaha, Nebr., until November 23, 1915, for serial numbers 125, bacon; 131, sliced beef; 205, sales lard; 261, pork sausage; 262, V. S. sausage; 287, beef tongue.

Metal filing cabinets, No. 2792.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 26, 1915, for 25 metal filing cabinets for blanks and documents, as per sample and specifications at depot. Tops and cornices to be made interchangeable. Cabinets must be so constructed as to permit of the addition thereto of the standard document file section. Cabinets to be boxed separately for shipment.

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No. 273 Washington, D. C., Saturday, November 20 1915

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DATE SELECTED FOR STARTING NEW SWEDISH LINE.

[American Minister Ira N. Morris, Stockholm, Oct. 25.]

The steamer *Stockholm*, of the new Swedish-American Steamship Co., will arrive at Goteborg on December 3, and will depart on its first voyage to New York about December 11.

JAPANESE BANKER ON TOUR OF UNITED STATES.

Baron Eiichi Shibusawa, a leading banker of Japan, who is visiting the United States to study banking facilities and to further trade relations between the two countries, has arrived in Seattle, Wash., with the party of seven that is accompanying him on his tour. From Seattle he will proceed to Chicago, arriving in the Illinois city on November 22. After spending three days in Chicago, the visitors are due in Pittsburgh November 25 for a two days stay; Philadelphia the 27th, one day; New York, the 28th; Boston, the 29th, two days; return to New York, the 30th, for five days; Washington, December 5, two days; Houston, Tex., December 8, two days; Los Angeles, December 12, one day; and will conclude the tour at San Francisco on December 14.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS AND LOAN FUND IN SALVADOR.

[Diario Oficial, Oct. 16.]

Official publication has just been made of a law of Salvador providing for the establishment of a stock company for savings and mutual loans among the employees of the treasury department. Under the provisions of this law the disbursing offices shall deduct a certain proportion of the salary of each employee, to be credited as savings and to be used as a fund for loans to members in time of need. All administrative details will be under the direction of a governing board. This law is to be put into effect on January 1, 1916.

CANADIAN WHEAT GREATLY EXCEEDS EARLY ESTIMATES.

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Nov. 12.]

The first estimate of the wheat crop of Western Canada from an authoritative source shows that it will exceed 300,000,000 bushels. This estimate was issued November 10 by the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association. It places the wheat figures for the 1915 crop at 307,280,000 bushels. Estimates made at the commencement of harvest operations were considered extravagant at 240,000,000 bushels.

The quantity of wheat inspected in Winnipeg up to November 1, 1915, 108,226,900 bushels, is over 100 per cent more than up to the same date last year. Four times the amount held by farmers at November 1 last year is in their possession now, indicating that the grain movement will continue until the 1916 harvest operations commence.

The association's other estimates are: Oats, 338,995,200 bushels; barley, 39,202,000 bushels; flax, 4,264,000 bushels.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Calgary, Alberta, Nov. 1.]

Working 24 Hours a Day in Flour Mills and on Farms of Alberta.

Alberta will thrash more than 30,000,000 bushels of wheat and more than 70,000,000 bushels of oats, with other field crops to correspond. The flour mills of Calgary and other cities of Alberta are working twenty-four hours per day. The elevators and the railways are pushed to capacity to handle the grain. The farmers are, wherever they can secure the men, working twenty-four hours per day on their thrashing operations, and the bulk of the tremendous yield will probably be thrashed before the weather becomes severe.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 3	Do.

ANDALUSIA OLIVE CROP.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, Oct. 21.]

Competent authorities give the increase in the present crop of olives over that of 1914 as 25 per cent for the district of Jerez de la Frontera and as 50 per cent for the entire district of Andalusia. The crop is needing rain, and the next few weeks may produce an increase or decrease in the estimates mentioned as well as an effect on the quality of this year's crop.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he received in stock during the week ended November 13 the following new United States Government publications of a business character, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Map of Mississippi, issued by the General Land Office, reprint.—Showing topography, county lines, railroads, public lands, etc. Price, 25c.

Utilization of Atmospheric Nitrogen, Special Agents Series No. 52, reprint.—Work by Thomas H. Norton, covering present supply of nitrogen, synthetic production of ammonia, synthesis of nitric acid from atmospheric nitrogen and oxygen, Schönherr and other processes, calcium cyanamide from atmospheric nitrogen, coal waste, and pent, etc. Price, 15c.

Financial Developments in South American Countries, Special Agents Series No. 103, reprint.—Covers financial conditions in South American countries, covering banking, government finances, emergency measures, etc. Price, 5c.

Consular Regulations of Foreign Countries, Tariff Series 24, reprint.—Important work on shipments to foreign countries, covering filling out of invoices and other business forms, consular regulations, consular fees, etc. Price, 10c.

Report of Selby Smelter Commission, Mines Bureau Bulletin 98.—A voluminous report (528 pp.) on investigation of the Selby smelter plants, involving effect of smelter smoke, etc., conditions in vicinity of smelting plants, and also methods for saving valuable by-products in smelter smoke. Price, \$1.25.

Digestibility of Some Animal Fats, Agriculture Department Bulletin 310.—Article by C. F. Langworthy on nature of the diet, experimental methods, digestion experiments, etc. Price, 5c.

Phosphate Rock and Methods Proposed for Its Utilization as a Fertilizer, Agriculture Department Bulletin 312.—Covers phosphate deposits in the United States and use of phosphate rock in the making of fertilizer materials. Price, 5c.

Food Values of Corn and Corn Products, Farmers' Bulletin No. 298.—Covers structure and composition of corn, milling, cooking, hulled corn, corn breakfast foods, pop corn, digestibility of foods made from corn, economy, etc. Price, 5c.

Cheese and Its Economical Uses in the Diet, Farmers' Bulletin 487, reprint.—Includes articles on cheese making, description of different varieties of cheese, care of cheese in the home and its uses as food, with many recipes for preparation thereof. Price, 5c.

OFFICIAL NUMBERS AWARDED MERCHANT VESSELS.

The following is a statement of official numbers and signal letters awarded to merchant steam screw vessels by the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, during the week ended November 13, 1915:

Name.	Official No.	Signal letters.	Tonnage.		Year built.	Where built.	Home port.
			Gross.	Net			
Carolina	213756	.....	9	6	1915	Wilmington, N. C.	Wilmington, N. C.
Morris Adler	213747	.....	2,481	1,494	1915	Ashtabula, Ohio.	Detroit.
Richard F. Young	213751	LFQK	268	182	1915	Grassy Point, N. Y.	New York.
Silver Shell	213752	LFQM	5,605	3,422	1915	Wilmington, Del.	Wilmington, Del.
Virginia	213761	LFQN	3,289	1,980	1915	Camden, N. J.	Boston.

The number of foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, since June 30, 1915, was 20 of 50,865 gross tons.

A big sagebrush plow exhibited at the San Francisco Exposition is said to be capable of turning under thickets of brush 6 feet high.

AMERICAN CONDENSED MILK SHOWING RAPID GAINS IN EXPORTS.

American condensed milk is being exported in record-breaking amounts with sales aggregating 37,235,627 pounds in the fiscal year 1915, against less than one-third that amount in 1911. Public inquiries for up-to-date information on the subject have been so numerous that the Bureau has prepared an advance statement showing the distribution of condensed milk from the United States to the different countries.

Cuba leads the world among the foreign markets for this American product, her annual purchases almost equaling the combined sales to all Europe. Very large amounts are sold also in the Orient, chiefly Japan, China, and the Philippine Islands.

The following table shows the leading markets in the fiscal year 1915, with a summarization for several prior years:

Exports of American condensed milk, 1915, in order of magnitude.

Countries.	Pounds.	Value.	Countries.	Pounds.	Value.
Cuba.....	8,391,400	\$785,400	Brazil.....	600,900	\$56,700
England.....	4,015,100	243,300	Jamaica.....	552,700	44,900
Belgium.....	3,332,900	241,800	Chosen (Korea).....	426,600	48,200
Japan.....	2,733,200	318,700	British Honduras.....	274,500	24,700
Netherlands.....	2,565,700	186,600	Chile.....	259,000	21,000
Philippine Islands.....	2,531,300	192,300	Honduras, Central America.....	241,500	20,700
China.....	2,496,300	210,600	Other countries.....	1,443,800	120,000
British South Africa.....	1,867,300	129,100			
Asiatic Russia.....	1,830,400	115,300	Totals: 1915.....	37,235,600	3,066,600
Panama.....	1,389,900	103,900	1914.....	16,209,100	1,341,100
Hongkong.....	873,400	74,000	1913.....	16,525,900	1,432,800
Mexico.....	767,100	62,300	1912.....	20,642,700	1,651,900
Peru.....	637,400	47,000	1911.....	12,180,400	936,100

The first three months of the fiscal year 1916 were characterized by a further expansion in exports of condensed milk. For July the total was 5,172,300 pounds; for August, 7,043,600 pounds; and for September, 9,786,200 pounds, making the sales in three months 22,002,100 pounds, or more than those for the year 1912.

Imports of fresh and condensed milk in 1915 aggregated \$2,556,800 and are now averaging about \$225,000 per month.

WHEAT SHIPMENTS FROM TSINGTAU TO JAPAN.

[Translation from Japanese newspaper at Tsingtau, China, forwarded by Consul Willys R. Peck, Sept. 30.]

In the freight that entered Tsingtau over the Shantung Railway during August wheat and Chinese coins reached the highest values. Wheat flour and other cereals ranked next. The export of wheat and Chinese coins will be reduced to much smaller figures in the future.

At the end of August there were 63,821 bags of wheat (about 5,289 metric tons) in the warehouses at Kobe, Japan, all exported from Tsingtau, and valued approximately at \$174,257. Taking into account the wheat exported in the early part of September, the total export since June is said to amount to 20,000 tons. The price of Japanese wheat is weak, and firms holding large quantities are seriously affected.

HONGKONG MARKET FOR AMERICAN SPONGES.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, Sept. 30.]

Practically all of Hongkong's present supply of sponges is imported from Great Britain, although the origin is Turkey. These Turkish sponges are chemically bleached with oxalic and hydrochloric acid, with the result that they rot quickly and their sale is somewhat limited in the colony. The natural bleached sponge is not to be found on the market, or, at least, the supply is very small indeed, and no doubt American sponges would soon become popular.

The Hongkong consulate general is informed that the best American sponge for this market would be the sheep's wool of medium size. The Philippine Islands produce a sort of a grass sponge which is used principally for industrial purposes, and there ought to be a fairly ready market for this class in both Hongkong and Canton. There is a fair supply of rubber sponges of American origin for sale and these are more or less popular, since the consumer does not take readily to the artificially bleached sponge.

[A list of possible Hongkong sponge buyers may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. GS347. Only negligible quantities of domestic sponges have been shipped from the United States to Hongkong in the past. Official American statistics show exports of but 1,436 pounds, value \$867, in the fiscal year 1913; 40 pounds, value \$24, in 1914; and 63 pounds, value \$43, in 1915. The American shipments to all countries in the years named were: 205,484 pounds, value \$177,059; 209,470 pounds, value \$173,866; and 117,618 pounds, value \$109,635.]

EGYPT'S COTTON CROP FOR 1915.

[Egyptian Gazette statement of Oct. 20, forwarded by Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria.]

The following is the estimate of the cotton crop of 1915 made by the ministry of agriculture. Yesterday Mr. Gerald Dudgeon came to the Khedivial Bourse, Alexandria, and posted it up. It is as follows (1 feddan equal 1.038 acres; 1 cantar equal 99.049 pounds):

The restriction by law of the cotton-growing area was expected to result in the sowing of about 1,350,000 feddans, but according to the returns obtained by the Sarrafs for the Department of Direct Taxes only 1,186,000 feddans were actually planted with the crop in 1915.

A check survey conducted in a few localities showed that the aggregate of the cotton areas given for these localities corresponded very nearly with the Sarrafs figures. It was thought inadvisable, therefore, to make any correction of the figures given by the Direct Taxes Department. This figure, viz, 1,186,000 feddans, is that which has accordingly been taken as the basis of the estimate of the yield. The damage due to the pink seed worm has been computed by a method based upon a careful examination of the results obtained in the field. By this method, checked by inspection of the more important localities, the cotton crop of Lower Egypt is estimated at 3.99 cantars per feddan, and that of Upper Egypt at 4.49 cantars per feddan, making an average for the whole of Egypt of 4.10 cantars per feddan, and a total, based on an area of 1,186,000 feddans, of 4,863,000 cantars.

This is an estimate of the 1915 crop alone, and takes no account of the balance of the crop of 1914 which has been held over until this year. Should the whole crop of 1915, together with an appreciable quantity of last year's crop, which is believed to have been held back, reach Alexandria before the end of the cotton season, the deliveries will be somewhat higher than the above-mentioned estimate.

Vice Consul Woodward reports that British Columbia's yield of oats is 4,096,000 bushels, compared with 3,171,000 last year, and all other grain 608,000 bushels, compared with 456,000.

HALIBUT GROUNDS SURVEYED FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

During July, August, and September the steamer *Albatross*, of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, carried on investigations of the fishing grounds lying off the Oregon and Washington coasts. This work was in continuation of a survey made in 1914, and was addressed particularly to little known or unknown grounds suitable for halibut.

The first trip of the *Albatross* was to grounds off the coast of Washington, from Grays Harbor to Flattery Banks, but the abundance of ground and blue sharks rendered the location unpromising for the establishment of a fishery at that time. Two favorable halibut bottoms were discovered approximately 27 miles southwest of Grays Harbor.

The second trip covered the same region by lines of soundings intended to determine the possible existence of offshore banks rising from the deep waters. One such bank was located as apparently the top of a submerged mountain, rising 6,000 feet from the floor of the ocean. The depth ranged from 525 to over 830 fathoms. The bank is not shoal enough for fishing, but it suggests the possible existence of other banks that might be of greater practical importance. The location of the bank is about 278 miles from Cape Flattery light, the latter bearing N. 66° E.

A third trip covered the region off the Columbia River, and south as far as Cape Meares. Good halibut bottom was found S. 71° W. of Columbia River Lightship, 17 miles out. South along the 100-fathom curve to Cascade Head good halibut bottom was noted for nearly the entire distance in 110 to 120 fathoms. A patch of very good bottom was located 22 miles northwest of Cape Meares light in 94 fathoms. The largest ground located by the *Albatross* lies between Tillamook Head and Cape Falcon, 28 to 30 miles from the coast. The bottom is of coarse and fine gravel, black sand and rocks, and an abundance of life was noted at the surface of the water.

A full report on this survey is now being prepared and, with accompanying charts, will be issued as soon as practicable.

MOTOR CARS FOR HONDURAS.

[American Minister John Ewing, Tegucigalpa, Oct. 14.]

A list of motor-car owners, prepared from the municipal register, appeared in yesterday's *Neuvo Tiempo* and disclosed the fact that 19 cars (both pleasure and commercial) are in use in Tegucigalpa. While the item was an advertisement inserted by the local agent of a popular, low-priced American car, it is of interest because all of these automobiles have been purchased within the past few months as the result of a demand created by the construction of only one motor highway.

Other articles appearing in the same issue of the journal indicate that the people are now awakening to the benefits that will accrue from the endeavors of the present administration to open up similar highways reaching every section of Honduras. When this work is accomplished, the demand for automobiles will be vastly increased, and it would be well for American manufacturers to prepare themselves to secure this trade.

PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIES IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona.]

In response to the petitions of various industrial societies and in pursuance of the policy of the Spanish Government to foster domestic production and export, the creation of a commission to study all conditions bearing upon this phase of national prosperity has been authorized by a royal decree.

The president of this commission is the General Director of the Spanish Customs and other members will be representatives of Spanish industrial bodies, technical experts chosen by the professors of certain schools and various officials, all to be named by the Spanish Treasury Department. The duties of the commission will consist in studying existing industries in Spain that, owing to peculiar internal or foreign conditions or need of expansion, would be benefited by Government support, with a view to increased exportation. The commissioners will also investigate such industries as the Government may specially indicate. It will consider from a practical standpoint the desirability of furthering the exportation of agricultural, mineral, or other domestic products, decide whether the results would be favorable or unfavorable to the development of natural resources, and suggest such means, including financial aid, best adapted to attain the end sought by leading economists in this country.

The decisions reached by the commission will be embodied in a report setting forth, among other matters, the best manner of granting concessions proposed; the conditions connected with the manufacture of merchandise the export of which it is designed to stimulate; and the most equitable form for the distribution of Government aid. After being passed upon by the commission such report will be laid before the Spanish Treasury Department.

PAPER DOILIES AND OTHER NOVELTIES FOR HONGKONG.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 1.]

There is apparently a good market in Hongkong for American dainty paper doilies, paper ruffles, paper soufflé cases, and the like. While only a small quantity of these goods is sold, this is perhaps due to the fact that the stocks carried are neither large nor varied; the purchaser is restricted to a few styles and designs, for which high prices are asked. No doubt, if American manufacturers care to interest themselves, considerable trade would result. The paper napkins on sale here are of Japanese origin, and it would be a question of price whether American wares could compete. In normal times there is a good market for menu cards, as practically nothing but the Japanese cards can be obtained; and as these follow well-established lines, without variation in design and quality, it is thought that new designs and ideas would be most acceptable locally.

[A list of possible Hongkong importers of paper doilies and other paper table novelties may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 68348.]

The completion of the aerial tramway across the Whirlpool at Niagara Falls is noted by Consul James H. Goodier. It cost \$50,000 and will be in operation by the end of the year.

SANITARY EQUIPMENT FOR HONGKONG HOMES.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 4.]

In general there is an increasing demand in Hongkong for better equipped bathrooms, and recently inquiries have been made at the Hongkong consulate general for catalogues describing American ranges with hot-water attachments, a better arrangement for heating the water for the bath being the chief requirement.

A modern bathroom is rather the exception than otherwise, and it is generally only in the newer dwellings, particularly those constructed in the apartment-house style, where reasonably equipped bathrooms have been installed. The Chinese have made no attempt to put in up-to-date equipments, with the exception of a few homes owned by Chinese with Western training, and if the idea should obtain that a modern bathroom is a necessity there would be an immense trade here.

Shanghai Tub Losing Popularity.

The "Shanghai tub" is losing its popularity to a certain extent; it is unsanitary in some ways, as, for instance, the outlet for the water has no outside pipe connection, and the water or some portion thereof is likely to remain on the bathroom floor. But, as before indicated, the chief necessity is the provision of facilities for heating the bath water, whether the Shanghai tub remains or a modern outfit complete is installed. In many houses there is a makeshift shower bath, but without the needle shower and other attachments, and few of these have connections with the bath-heating apparatus.

At present in Hongkong there would be no demand for closets with flush fixtures, as the dry-closet system is still in vogue, and this will not be changed until the sewerage system has been extended and there is sufficient water for flushing purposes. The Government is building another reservoir which will give plenty of water even in the driest season. In connection with the bathroom an enameled lavatory with hot and cold water connections is likewise needed.

C. I. F. Quotations.

Interested firms in the United States should send complete catalogues with prices, discounts, terms of payment preferred, and similar information to Hongkong commission houses [a list of which may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; ask for file No. 68349]. American exporters are urged to quote terms c. i. f. Hongkong, as it is impossible for Hongkong importers to estimate prices otherwise.

RUSSIAN EMBARGO REGULATIONS.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is in receipt of a number of copies of a translation of the embargo provisions of Russia and Sweden, forwarded by the commercial attaché at Petrograd, which will be distributed to those interested upon application. Besides giving lists of the articles under embargo on September 15, 1915, the document contains detailed instructions regarding applications for permission to export prohibited products from Russia.

The first shipment of this season's apples and pears from British Columbia arrived at Sydney, Australia, on September 24.

WORK OF SOCIETY FOR TESTING MATERIALS.

The increasing activities of the American Society for Testing Materials are fully presented in five publications it has recently issued. The most important of these volumes is the 756-page yearbook, containing the standards and tentative standards of the society. Another publication of 250 pages contains a summarized list of standards, charter and by-laws of the organization, information concerning the International Association for Testing Materials, with which it is affiliated, roll of membership, board of officers, committees, technical problems, and numerous other facts of interest to those who have occasion to deal with specifications for materials and allied subjects.

A smaller book, containing information about the society, states that it was formed in 1898 as a branch of the international organization, was incorporated in 1902 as the American Society, and that it still maintains a close relation to the parent organization. Membership may be held by individuals, firms, corporations, technical or scientific societies, companies, teaching faculties, and libraries. The work is done largely through its technical committees, which present reports and recommendations at the annual meeting. There are now 38 technical committees, with a total membership of 932.

Mr. Edgar Marburg, the secretary-treasurer, who is professor of civil engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., announces that four of the bureaus of the United States Navy hold perpetual membership in this society, and that at the request of the Baldwin Locomotive Works that company has been granted the society's permission to publish many of its standards relating to specifications for iron and steel products in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian, with a view to their serving as a basis in the purchase of locomotives throughout the world.

The United States Bureau of Standards is represented on many of the technical committees of the society, and is an active participant in its work. Mr. Marburg calls attention to the fact that similar work in the field of standardization of specifications is being done in England by the British Engineering Standards Committee, under the auspices of the leading technical societies, manufacturers, and consumers, and with liberal financial support on the part of the Government.

The annual report of the society's executive committee says of its usefulness: "The increasing use of the standard specifications of the society in Federal, State, and municipal circles, apart from their extensive adoption in ordinary commercial channels, is significant of the confidence placed in the work of the society, and emphasizes the reciprocal obligation upon the society to justify that confidence in connection with everything to which its name is attached. It may not be known to the membership at large, for example, that the purchases for the Panama Canal have been made largely under its standards, 27 of the standard specifications of the society being now used by the purchasing department of the canal; also that the United States postal cars are purchased subject to the A. S. T. M. standard specifications. Again, nine of the standard specifications have been adopted—in some cases with slight modifications—in connection with the boiler code recently prepared by a committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, which is expected to be adopted in many States by legal enactment."

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**AUSTRALIA.**

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Oct. 21.]

New Buildings at Sydney.

Building operations in the suburbs of Sydney during the first eight months of 1915 have not been so brisk as during the like period of 1914. There were erected 4,373 buildings, costing \$11,347,573, as against 6,798, costing \$17,370,553, during the similar period in 1914.

Construction Projects in State of Queensland.

The British Government trade correspondent at Brisbane reports that several projects are engaging the attention of the Government of Queensland, among which may be mentioned the erection of abattoirs, the extension of a number of railways, and the development of coal mines and oil wells. He adds that State ownership of hospitals is also contemplated, and that a commission has been established to deal with the long-outstanding question of the Mackay harbor improvements.

[Sydney Herald, Oct. 8.]

Electricity for Mountains.

A deputation representing the Blue Mountain Shire yesterday waited upon the officer in charge of local government, Mr. Garlick, with a request for an enabling bill to permit the shire to borrow \$125,000 to install electric lighting at Blackheath, Springwood, Mount Victoria, and Medlow. Mr. Garlick promised to bring the matter under the notice of the minister.

Joint Royal Commission for Border Railways.

An order in council appointing a joint royal commission, representing New South Wales and Victoria, to inquire into the question of border railway connection, has been agreed to by the State executive at Melbourne.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

[Consul Benjamin F. Chase, Fiume, Oct. 13.]

Proposed Railway Construction Work in Croatia.

Il Popolo, a local newspaper of this date, announces new railway construction work in this consular district as follows, translated from the Italian:

The Direction of the State Railway has decided to construct a double track along the line of railway from Karlovac to Ostaric. Yesterday there was a survey. The technical experts report that owing to the bad condition of the ground each kilometer (five-eighths of a mile) will cost \$32,480. The distance is about 11 kilometers.

CANADA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Calgary, Alberta, Nov. 1.]

Reduction Made in Year in City's Public Works.

Compared with previous years, Calgary's total public expenditure this year will be small—\$500,000, compared with \$1,326,562 in 1914 and \$2,025,941 in 1913. These figures show how the public works of Calgary have been cut down since the war began.

CHINA.

[Translated from Novosti Zhisni of Sept. 30 by Vice Consul William Morton, Harbin.]

Mr. Seadzi, an agent of the South Manchuria Railway, has arrived at Harbin and made arrangements for presenting to the municipal council a plan for constructing a complete tramway service for Harbin. It is said that practically all the equipment will be of Japanese manufacture.

[Previous references to plans for a tramway for Harbin appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 12, 1915.]

DUTCH WEST INDIES.

[Consul H. C. von Struve, Curaçao, W. I., Oct. 28.]

Oil Refinery in Curaçao.

The Bataafsche Petroleum Maatschappij, the company engaged in erecting an oil refinery here (see COMMERCE REPORTS No. 80, Apr. 6, 1915), has opened an office. The local address is: Bataafsche Petroleum Maatschappij, Pieter Jansen, manager, Curaçao, W. I.

NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 9.]

Draining Swamp Lands.

The Minister of Lands for New Zealand has been authorized to expend any sum up to \$364,987 for the drainage of the swamp lands about Auckland and in other parts of the Dominion. It might be well for manufacturers of dredging and ditching machinery to send printed matter, with prices, to the Minister of Lands, Wellington, New Zealand. As I understand it, much of the work can be done by machinery, and American dredging and ditching machinery are the best in the world, and well adapted to this work.

It might also be well to send printed matter, with prices, to a special list of firms in position to handle this class of machinery, for there are other drainage schemes under way.

[The consul general's list may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 68777.]

SPAIN.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Oct. 29.]

Extension of Telephone Lines in Seville.

Referring to the report from this office published in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 21, 1915, reporting the proposed extension of the telephone lines of Seville to near-by towns, permission has now been granted for the extension of the said lines to 22 towns. Some of the towns are said to be petitioning for immediate connections, while others are waiting until proper financial arrangements can be made.

It is said that the inauguration of the first line will be observed with ceremonies by the authorities and others who are invited, and a banquet will be served.

It is expected that the first line will be installed between Seville and Guillena, as this is one of the near-by towns that has a considerable daily commerce with Seville.

Further information regarding the lines, with the addresses of the companies interested, will be found in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 21.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**MADAGASCAR.**

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave, Sept. 6, 1915.]

New Consumption-Tax Law.

A new schedule of consumption taxes in Madagascar, to continue in effect five years, was enacted July 7, 1915, and went into effect August 20, 1915. In general the rates are the same as under the old law and apply equally to foreign and local products, but certain alcoholic liquors are subject to increased taxes, as are also fireworks, and a new tax of 1 franc each has been levied on firearms. Corsets, parasols, umbrellas, and hats are also added to the list of articles subject to internal tax, an impost equal to the minimum rates of the French customs tariff being levied thereon. The duty on opium is decreased and its importation prohibited except for officinal purposes. The law also provides that the previous exemption of jute and hemp bags from consumption tax shall be limited to those intended for reexportation. [For the previous schedule of consumption taxes and modifications thereof, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 2, p. 52, and No. 13, p. 200.]

PERU.

[L. B. Clark, secretary to commercial attaché, Lima, Oct. 7, 1915.]

Proposed New Duties.

A proposed law submitted by the President of Peru to the Chamber of Deputies and published in *La Prensa* of October 7, 1915, provides for an increase in the consular fees for certifying shipping documents from 1 to 2 per cent of the invoice value of the shipment and imposes an import duty of 10 per cent ad valorem on a number of industrial products now admitted free of duty. Provision is also made for a tax of 0.25 centavo per kilo (\$1.10 per short ton) on all merchandise imported through the ports of Callao and Mollendo destined for consumption in Peru. The latter impost, it is stated, is intended to defray certain customhouse handling charges previously borne by the Government.

The President of Peru gives as the reason for the levying of the new import duties the necessity of immediately obtaining additional revenue, and it is pointed out that coal, foodstuffs, and other articles of necessity have not been included in the list of dutiable products. The following is the list of articles, formerly free, which are to be dutiable at 10 per cent ad valorem: Iron bars, zinc bars, tin in bars and sheets, sheet iron, pig iron, lead bars, fencing wire, round wire, round axles, iron bands, rivets, brass oil cans, quicksilver, copper bars, asbestos, empty bottles, asbestos cement, Roman and Portland cement, fire brick and tiles, retorts, earth for clarifying wines, earth mold, refractory earths, bark for tanning, split bamboo, knees for boats, unfinished staves, rough logs, ordinary lumber (poplar, ash, and oak), fine unworked lumber, ship paint, tar and pitch, tools and implements for all industries, stills of copper or of other metals, pumps for use in mining and boiler pumps, boilers, motor trucks, railway and tramway freight and passenger cars, railway hand cars, boats, jack screws, injectors, engines, machinery for use in agriculture, mining, and other industries, cranes, spare parts for sewing machines, sulphide of arsenic, dry fodder, copper sulphate, disinfectants, hops, and quinine.

Upon the enactment of the law, equivalent specific duties are to be substituted for the rate of 10 per cent ad valorem, as the duties pre-

scribed for most other products by the Peruvian customs tariff are specific. The law is to go into effect immediately upon enactment, the income received from the new duties prior to December 31, 1915, to be applied to disbursements under the budget law for 1915.

RUSSIA.

[Vyestnik Finansov, Sept. 27 (Oct. 10), 1915.]

Prohibition on Products of Enemy Countries

An order of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, under date of September 22 (Oct. 5), 1915, prohibits the importation into Russia of the products of the soil and industry of the countries at present at war with Russia, with the exception of the articles included under the following items of the Russian tariff: 51(5), 90, 92, 93, 96-116, 117(2), 124-135, 137, 139-147, 148(1), 155, 161, 167, 169, and 178. The articles covered by the above tariff items, which are to be admitted subject to the discriminating rates provided for enemy products are animal oils, chemicals, tanning and dyeing materials, various metals and metal manufactures, tools, machinery and apparatus, and printed matter of various kinds. In promulgating the above order, the Department of Customs states that the prohibition affects only such products as may be recognized by the customs authorities as originating in enemy countries. In the case of articles imported from allied or neutral countries without the requisite certificates of origin, or with certificates which may not be considered satisfactory by the customs authorities, such products are to be admitted, in the absence of proof of enemy origin, at the rates prescribed for products of German, Austro-Hungarian, or Turkish origin, which include a discriminating surtax of 100 per cent for dutiable goods and specific rates for free goods. [See Foreign Tariff Notes No. 16, pp. 90-91.]

Imports Without Certificates of Origin.

The Vyestnik Finansov for October 4(17), 1915, contains a complete list of products which may be imported into Russia without certificates of origin. The list, which is too extensive for publication, is substantially the same as that summarized in COMMERCE REPORTS for October 28, 1915. Information with regard to specific articles will be furnished upon application.

[Vyestnik Finansov, Oct. 4 (17), 1915.]

Increased Excise on Matches.

An imperial decree of September 14(27), 1915, provides for considerable increases in the excise taxes on domestic and imported matches, to remain in effect until January 14, 1918. The same decree also fixes maximum prices for safety matches. Information in regard to the new rates and maximum prices will be furnished upon application.

URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, Sept. 28, 1915.]

Reduction on Denatured Cottonseed Oil.

Denatured cottonseed oil has been added to the list of raw products for industrial use subject to an import duty of 5 per cent ad valorem in Uruguay, according to a resolution of September 27, 1915. [A surtax of 4 per cent ad valorem is to be added to the above rate. The duty on cottonseed oil (edible and other) was previously 0.15 peso per kilo (\$7.49 per 100 pounds, including surtaxes).]

RIO GRANDE DO SUL STOCK RAISERS STRENGTHEN UNION.

[Vice Consul Robert L. Keiser, São Paulo, Brazil, Sept. 21.]

The union of stockraisers in Rio Grande do Sul was organized in 1913. Among the objects of the association are: The promotion and solicitation from the Government of revision of the laws in favor of rural development; increase and betterment of transportation facilities; reduction of freights; the establishing of agencies to facilitate direct importation and wholesale purchases by the members of anything of use in perfecting the cattle industry, such as blooded stock for breeding purposes, wire and fencing, salt, wood, windmills, agricultural and dairy machinery, motors, engines, pumps, materials for construction of water reservoirs, seeds, insect destroyers, veterinary instruments, and general farm implements and tools; and the publishing of a technical magazine for free distribution among the members.

The growth of the association has been very rapid. More than 1,600 members are enrolled. Head offices are maintained in the city of Porto Alegre, with a staff of competent assistants, including a veterinary surgeon. The association has taken a very active part in various agricultural and industrial movements in the State, especially the contemplated construction of a beef-packing establishment in the city of Rio Grande.

"A Estancia" is a well-prepared monthly magazine published by the Union, and contains technical studies, as well as general information regarding the cattle industry of the State. It is desired to exchange this magazine with similar publications in the United States. Catalogues of the various articles imported by the Union are also desired. The address to be used is: União dos Criadores, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

SISAL-GROWING ENTERPRISE IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Gualra, Oct. 23.]

The National Government of Venezuela has entered into a contract with the Compania Anonima de Fibras y Cordeles de Caracas for the encouragement of cultivation of fiber-producing plants in the country. The company is obligated to plant, itself or through another company or person, not less than 200,000 stalks of sisal (*Agave sisalana*) or other similar plant, not more than 2,000 per hectare (2.47 acres), and to supply up to 25,000 bundles of sisal annually for six years, to be distributed among farmers who desire to attempt planting the crop, each lot of plants to be accompanied by a book of instructions upon cultivation of textile plants.

The Government grants the company free introduction, for six years, of 250 metric tons (metric ton=2,204 pounds) annually of the fiber needed for its factory. The company is to begin planting in 1916 and to complete the contract requirement before the end of 1917. It is estimated that the plantations will be in full bearing in six years.

Consul General A. Gaulin, of Marseille, France, suggests—as have many others—that American firms receiving assistance from a consul should notify such officer whenever his advice has been of practical use.

WELSH INTEREST IN BALATA AND TEXTILE BELTING.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, detailed as vice consul, Swansea, Oct. 7.]

No machinery belting is manufactured in the Swansea consular district. Before the outbreak of war, textile belting had made strong inroads on the leather trade, and the increased price of leather, estimated at 60 per cent higher than 15 months ago, has added impetus to this already strongly developed tendency. Figures showing the imports and exports of this class of goods for the United Kingdom for the past five years are given. There are no official statistics for the Swansea district. Using the hundredweight of 112 pounds as the unit, the quantities and values for the United Kingdom were:

Year.	Leather.		Woven hair or cotton.		Other sorts.	
	Hundred-weight.	Value.	Hundred-weight.	Value.	Hundred-weight.	Value.
IMPORTS.						
1910	3,069	\$186,372	6,595	\$301,421	4,008	\$179,508
1911	4,171	267,682	6,259	313,150	5,559	254,425
1912	4,395	285,172	6,542	312,439	5,737	272,306
1913	5,192	325,467	3,061	188,183	6,703	306,750
1914	4,219	279,172	2,332	105,968	3,992	179,537
EXPORTS.						
1910	39,448	2,508,433	39,763	1,641,796	32,064	1,896,436
1911	40,140	2,585,532	40,614	1,737,409	31,048	1,914,238
1912	45,031	2,764,362	51,125	2,133,279	23,372	1,902,743
1913	48,903	3,323,935	60,346	2,638,548	28,108	1,915,357
1914	35,964	2,788,368	47,870	2,182,202	19,800	1,342,619

The Netherlands, Germany, and the United States supplied about equal amounts of leather belting in 1912, 1913, and 1914; Germany supplied 98 per cent of the woven hair or cotton belting in 1912, 97 per cent in 1913, and 75 per cent in 1914. Of the other kinds not specified, from 40 to 50 per cent came from Germany; Norway ranked second, and the United States third in exports to the United Kingdom.

Principal Importing Countries for Various Classes.

Of the exports of leather belting, the principal importing countries in order of importance were India, Russia, Brazil, and Argentina; of woven hair or cotton belting, India, the United States, and Russia; of the "other sorts," the Transvaal, Canada, and France.

The popular widths of belting sold in Swansea are from 2 to 8 inches, particularly the 3, 4, 5, and 6-inch sizes. Conveyor belts are sold up to 24 and 36 inches in width. Local dealers seem satisfied with the British goods they have in stock, and evince little interest in handling American lines. Only one firm is willing to receive American quotations, which should be in English currency, c. i. f. Swansea.

[An article on textile beltings, in which the properties of balata that fitted it for this use were described, was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 19, 1915. The name of the firm in Swansea willing to receive American quotations for balata and textile belting may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67955.]

Veneers, especially 3-ply, are in considerable demand in Australia.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Hardware, hosiery, suspenders, etc., No. 19303.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of builders' hardware; hosiery, cotton and fine lisle; suspenders; garters; dress fasteners, buttons of all kinds; aluminium combs, and other varieties; hooks and eyes, etc.

Shoes, No. 19304.—A report from an American consular officer in Italy states that a dealer would like to establish commercial relations with firms exporting shoes for women and children. Quotations should be mailed to the American consulate.

Bottles, No. 19305.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a wholesale and retail dealer in gaseous drinks, wines, and liquors desires to receive prices and terms from manufacturers of bottles of 1 liter, 92 and 65 centiliters.

Woodworking machinery, No. 19306.—A lumber merchant in France informs an American consular officer that he desires to obtain catalogues and prices of woodworking machinery. The inquirer intends to equip a new wood-working establishment. Quotations are desired c. i. f. port of destination, if possible, or f. o. b. New York with freight estimates. Correspondence may be in English, and weights and measurements should be stated in metric units. Drawings of the types of machines wanted may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68608.)

Small oil or petrol engines, No. 19307.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in the United Kingdom desires names of manufacturers making small oil or petrol engines suitable for light barn and dairy machinery. Catalogues and price lists quoting best terms for an exclusive agency are requested.

Waterproofing and dying of cloth, No. 19308.—A letter to the Bureau states that a company in England desires to obtain the names and addresses of firms dying and waterproofing cloths.

Clocks, combs, etc., No. 19309.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a wholesale merchant desires to receive catalogues on cash boxes, clocks, watches, combs, brushes, fountain pens, and soap of various kinds, etc. The cheaper grades of these articles are wanted. Correspondence may be in English.

Drugs, pins, watches, etc., No. 19310.—A letter to the Bureau from a man in Russia states that he desires to represent American firms exporting drugs, pins, watches, paper, needles, combs, and shoes for women and children.

Fancy articles for advertising, No. 19311.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Switzerland stating that it desires novelties in paper goods for advertising, especially articles of interest to hotels, restaurants, and buffets.

Wall paper and decorative materials, No. 19312.—A report from an American consular officer in France states that a manufacturers' agent is desirous of establishing commercial relations with manufacturers of wall paper and high-class decorative materials.

Gold sheets for gilding silks, No. 19313.—An American consular officer in France reports that a firm engaged in the gilding business desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of gold sheets to be used in the textile industry for gilding silks. It is stated that cash will be paid for all purchases. Correspondence in French is desired.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 274 Washington, D. C., Monday, November 22 1915

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SWISS PURCHASING TRUST OPERATING.

[Cablegram from American Minister P. A. Stovall, Berne; supplementing statements in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 2 and 9, 1915.]

The Swiss Importation Trust (Société Suisses de Surveillance) began operations on November 18.

AMERICAN FIRM GETS LARGE CONTRACT IN URUGUAY.

[Cablegram from American Legation, Montevideo, Nov. 16.]

For sewerage and waterworks construction in Salto, Paysandu, and Mercedes, Uruguay, local representatives of an American contracting company have signed, ad referendum, a contract with the Government involving nearly 5,000,000 pesos (\$5,170,000).

[An announcement that an American bid would probably be submitted on the work at Salto was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 8, 1915.]

SHIPPING FACILITIES TO NEW ZEALAND IMPROVE.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 12.]

Shipping facilities between the east coast of the United States and New Zealand have materially improved within the past three months, and it seems clear that from now on the trade between the United States and Australasian ports will be handled very satisfactorily, if one is to judge from the following from the New Zealand Herald, a leading daily of this city:

A large number of vessels, which were interned at various ports, have been released by the Imperial authorities, and are now doing useful duty as British merchantmen. The A and A line (American and Australian Line), have secured six of these vessels, and the following steamers will shortly load at New York for New Zealand ports, coming via the Panama Canal: *Parattah* (ex *Berlin*), *Conargo* (ex *Altona*), *Toromeo* (ex *Tibercious*), *Talaica* (ex *Wotan*), *Araluen* (ex *Scharzfels*), and *Dongarra* (ex *Stolzenfels*).

These steamers should be able to handle the rapidly increasing business between these countries, which makes that much easier for American manufacturers and exporters to come after this trade in earnest.

CANADIAN CITY PLACES LOAN IN UNITED STATES.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Calgary, Alberta, Nov. 12.]

The city of Calgary has borrowed \$2,000,000 in New York, pledging therefor the arrears of taxes due the city on November 21, 1915, and amounting to \$2,800,000. Three-year 6-per-cent Treasury notes will be issued by the city, the price obtained being 97.

Under the terms of the loan all arrears of taxes collected after November 21, 1915, are to be remitted to the firm in New York City monthly and placed in trust account for the redemption of the Treasury notes, this fund to bear interest at 4 per cent.

The notes mature as follows: \$600,000 December 1, 1915; \$700,000 December 1, 1916; \$700,000 December 1, 1917. The city reserves the right of calling in all or any part of the second and third maturity on December 1, 1916, or any interest-paying date thereafter, by giving 60 days' notice; principal and half-yearly interest payable in gold, at the holder's option, in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, or New York.

The offer was made by the New York firm on the understanding that it is to be given the privilege of securing on the most favorable terms possible the £281,000, to be transferred to London, England, to pay a like amount of Treasury notes maturing in London December 30, 1915, and any profit on account of the favorable rate of exchange is to go to them.

The loan will net the city of Calgary \$1,940,000 and is payable to the city as follows: \$1,400,000 on or before December 30, 1915, \$300,000 in 30 days therefrom, and the balance in 60 days therefrom.

WORK OF EXTENDING LATIN-AMERICAN TRADE DESCRIBED.

A review of what has been and is being done by the Department of Commerce to push the trade of the United States with Central and South America is presented in a letter from Secretary William C. Redfield to Senator Francis S. White, of Alabama. This statement, giving details of the work of commercial attachés and special agents of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and of the assistance received from consular representatives, is in reply to a letter from the Senator, making inquiry as to what has been done to press the sales of the products of Southern manufacturers in Latin-American countries.

RECEIPTS OF FISH AT NEW ENGLAND PORTS.

According to the Bureau of Fisheries, the fishing fleet landing fish at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., in October, 1915, included 303 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed during the month 477 trips at Boston, aggregating 11,501,750 pounds of fish, valued at \$321,658; at Gloucester, 224 trips, aggregating 5,917,881 pounds, valued at \$214,451; and at Portland, 119 trips, amounting to 807,169 pounds, valued at \$22,626. The total for the three ports during the month was 820 trips, aggregating 18,226,800 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$558,735.

BUREAU OF MINES PRODUCES RADIUM AT REDUCED COST.

Secretary of the Interior Lane, through the United States Bureau of Mines, has made public the methods whereby the bureau has been able to produce radium for less than one-third its present selling price. The cost of radium at the Denver experiment station of the bureau, including the higher cost of first experimental work, was \$37,000 for each gram of radium metal. The market price of radium for the last two or three years, according to the Bureau of Mines, has been from \$120,000 to \$160,000 per gram.

"The result of the ability of the Bureau of Mines to produce radium for \$37,000 a gram," said Secretary Lane, "has at least made it possible for two great hospitals in the country to obtain a goodly supply of radium for use in the treatment of cancer, that dreadful disease that is costing the lives of 75,000 human beings every year in the United States." Up to the present time 5 grams of radium have been extracted from the carnotite ores, and about half of it has been delivered in finished form to the Kelly Sanitarium in Baltimore and to the Memorial Hospital in New York.

"The Bureau of Mines produced this radium in cooperation with what is known as the National Radium Institute, which was organized for the purpose of studying the curative properties of radium and not for private gain. These investigations have from the first been under the direction of Dr. C. L. Parsons, of the Bureau of Mines, the funds being furnished under cooperative agreement between the National Radium Institute and the Bureau of Mines, by Dr. Howard A. Kelly, of Baltimore, and Dr. James Douglas, of New York.

"The application of radium in the treatment of cancer and other malignant growths has made much more rapid progress in the last two years than is generally appreciated, even by the medical profession. All kinds of opinions may be easily had from the laity and from cancer experts; and the public can draw almost any conclusion from the statements appearing in the newspapers, but preference should be given to the opinions of those persons who have had extended experience in the use of radium in sufficient quantities to enable them to speak authoritatively.

Sufficient Quantity of Radium Must be Used.

"One thing regarding radium therapy that has been developed is that if the gamma rays of radium are to be successfully applied to the cure of cancer, a much larger quantity of radium must be used than is possessed by not more than two or three individual surgeons or hospitals in the United States. I know of no individual or hospital that has had the privilege of working with so much as half a gram of radium that does not report cures in increasing number or that is not able to treat even advanced cases with increasing success as a knowledge of technique is developed. The extent and variety of cures reported and the helpful effects of the gamma rays at depth are almost in direct proportion to the quantity of radium that can be applied at one time to the patient.

"I do not mean that radium in comparatively small amounts may not be effective, but in two American hospitals that have a half a

gram of radium or more, results are being obtained daily that unquestionably will not be duplicated elsewhere until equal quantities are available. Physicians and surgeons who do not have this much radium have no right to criticize or condemn the physicians who have more and who are obtaining results.

"At the time the Bureau began its radium investigations the miners and prospectors in Colorado and Utah who were engaged in the mining of carnotite ore were receiving between \$75 and \$80 a ton for their ore, this price being for the ore delivered in New York for shipment to Europe. The ore was being sent abroad in quantity and was not being treated in this country, although one or two companies were rapidly purchasing from prospectors claims at \$50 to \$200 and thereby laying the foundation of a future possible monopoly in this rare material. It was hoped that methods could be found that would enable miners and associations of miners to extract the radium from their own ores, place it on the market, and obtain profits that had been going to foreign manufacturers.

Price of Ore Doubled in Two Years.

"By August, 1914, when the European war came on, carnotite ore was selling for more than twice the price that had been obtained in the summer of 1912, this being undoubtedly due to the Bureau of Mines calling attention to the situation as it existed at the beginning.

"At this time there were 16 to 20 grams of radium contracted for abroad, chiefly in Germany, at prices above \$120,000 a gram. Seemingly the war has not affected the market price, but simply the amount produced.

"As to the selling price of radium in the future the Bureau of Mines makes no prediction, but it does not follow that the selling price will decline because of the cheaper methods of production. The situation is somewhat analogous to the production of gold, diamonds, or any other material that is in steady demand but occurs only in small quantities. Beyond doubt the amount of radium in nature is exceedingly small. Other deposits of radium ore may be found, but it is highly improbable that the past rarity of radium ores will be greatly modified, so that the price of the radium will largely depend on the ability to procure the raw material.

"According to the best evidence that the Bureau of Mines can obtain there is not sufficient ore available to maintain for many more years the rate of production in 1914.

"When this radium work was taken up it was the desire of the department to show beyond doubt that, if authorized by Congress, the radium could be procured from ores then owned by the people at a cost approximating one-third the market price and that it was much better policy for the Government to obtain the radium so greatly needed in the hospitals of the Army, Navy, and Public Health Service at this low cost than to give these ores to large corporations and then purchase as radium material that had belonged to the people at a price insuring large profits to the possessors.

Carnotite Areas Prospected and Most Valuable Claims Located.

"Unfortunately, the bill introduced into Congress in 1914 which would have accomplished this purpose failed to pass and in the meantime the carnotite areas have been thoroughly prospected and the

most valuable claims located. Accordingly, we must be content with the good that may come to the American people through the radium being extracted in the plant of the National Radium Institute until such time as the Government may furnish funds sufficient to enable it to purchase in the open market such ore as may be necessary to supplement the little that remains unlocated on Government land.

"The report of the bureau on this new and cheaper method of producing radium from carnotite ores is highly technical in its character and will only interest those chemists who are engaged on such work. The methods devised are entirely new and differ from former methods not only in detail but in apparatus used. The time of operation is much shorter than in any other plant now producing radium and the commercial recovery is much greater. Furthermore, it is believed that the cost of production is less than that in any method used heretofore. It should be remembered, however, that the methods apply solely to the treatment of carnotite ore and are not necessarily applicable to pitchblende or autunite.

"The methods of extracting the radium that have been evolved may be utilized, under intelligent technical control, by any firm, association, or corporation that can obtain the raw material. Although being patented for the benefit of the people, the processes may be used freely by anyone within the United States."

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Tosario, Argentina.....	do.	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 3	(a)

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

OIL PRODUCTION IN SARAWAK.

[Vice Consul John Nimmo Wardrop, Sandakan, British North Borneo, Sept. 18.]

The Sarawak Gazette of August 2, 1915, makes the following quotation from the Financial Times:

The Sarawak concessions worked by the Anglo-Saxon Co. yielded 65,185 tons, against 26,043 tons in 1913. The oil is still being refined in Sumatra pending a larger production, which would make construction of a local refinery profitable.

The 65,185 tons apparently represent the yield of the Sarawak workings for the calendar year 1914.

DRUG MATERIALS FROM WEST CHINA.

[Consul E. Carleton Baker, Chungking.]

The Province of Szechwan is well known for its medicines and medicinal materials, as large quantities are used in other parts of China and there are considerable shipments abroad. Recently a long list of the important local medicinal materials was shown to an American drug expert, who designated a number that could be used to advantage by pharmacists, etc., in the United States. A list of the articles so designated was submitted to the local Chamber of Commerce with the request that samples of each be collected for the consulate and that some data be furnished concerning the amount available each season and the prevailing prices. This request was complied with courteously and promptly. Following is the list of samples furnished, with a brief description of each; the prices are for the early summer, 1915:

Aconitum wilsoni, *A. fischeri*, and *A. hemslayan*.—Of these aconite materials, *A. wilsoni*, known to the Chinese as "chuan wu," can be obtained for \$0.85 United States currency per 100 pounds. About 55,000 pounds a year can be supplied by this part of China. *A. fischeri*, known in Chinese as "fu tzu," brings \$3.28 per 100 pounds; supply available, 400,000 pounds a year. About 27,000 pounds of *A. hemslayan* are available each year and it sells for \$3.14 per 100 pounds. Among the Chinese it is known as "ts'ao wu."

Artemisia sp.—This wormwood sells at \$1.88 per 100 pounds and about 15,000 pounds a year are available. It is known locally as "yin chen."

Asarum himalaicum.—The sample of "hung yen" submitted is considered poisonous. It sells for \$9.39 per 100 pounds and 200,000 pounds are available annually.

Cannabis sativa.—This oil-bearing seed may be purchased locally for \$1.78 per 100 pounds, about 15,000 pounds a year being available. Among the Chinese it is known as "huo ma yen."

Cinnamomum cassia.—This well-known material can be purchased for \$1.13 per 100 pounds in west China. About 250,000 pounds are available annually; known to the Chinese as "kuan kuei."

Coptis chinensis.—This is a bitter herb of the crowfoot family. Two varieties are sold locally. One, known as "ya huang lien," is sold for \$47 per 100 pounds, 13,000 pounds a year being the output. The other variety, known as "wei huang lien," is much cheaper, selling for \$3.76 per 100 pounds. Thirteen thousand pounds are available each year.

Croton tiglium.—These familiar oil-bearing seeds are sold in west China for \$2.63 per 100 pounds, and about 250,000 pounds are available each season. They are known to the Chinese as "pa tou."

Foeniculum vulgare.—Fennel seed sells for \$3.05 per 100 pounds and 150,000 pounds are available. It is known to the Chinese as "hsiao hui."

Glycyrrhiza asperima.—Licorice root is sold at \$11.28 per 100 pounds, and 700,000 pounds are produced annually. It is known locally as "kan tsao."

Rheum officinale.—This rhubarb root is sold locally at \$10.33 per 100 pounds, and 250,000 pounds are available annually. It is called by the Chinese "ta huang."

Scutellaria sp.—These seeds are known to the Chinese as "chuan lien tzu" or "huang chin tzu," but further details were not obtained.

Zanthoxylum bungei.—These seeds are available at \$11.80 per 100 pounds. About 150,000 pounds are produced annually. The seeds are called "hua chiao" by the Chinese.

Zingiber officinale.—This ginger sells for \$1.88 per 100 pounds and the supply amounts to 1,000,000 pounds a year. It is known locally as "kan chiang."

Huang pei and *pi hsieh*.—These are barks included with the samples without further identification. *Huang pei* sells at \$1.41 per 100 pounds, 250,000 pounds a year being available. About 200,000 pounds of *pi hsieh* are produced annually; no price given.

[The 18 samples of medicinal materials supplied by Consul Baker may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce

or its branch offices. The names of two exporting firms at Chungking may be obtained from the Bureau or its branches. Refer to file No. 63302.]

PUGET SOUND'S IMPROVED SHIPPING FACILITIES.

[Commercial Agent W. B. Henderson, Seattle, Wash.]

The steamers *Keishin Maru* and *Tosan Maru* have been added to the service of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha between Puget Sound and China and Japan. In addition, the *Unkai Maru No. 2*, which is under charter to the shipping firm of Frank Waterhouse & Co., reached Seattle recently with a 2,000-ton cargo of oriental freight. After discharging, the vessel had a full cargo booked for the Orient.

The vessel *Golden Shore*, from Littleton, New Zealand, by way of Newcastle, New South Wales, came to Puget Sound, under charter to Hind Rolph Co., to load lumber from Seattle and Everett and return to New Zealand.

Five new ships—four of them heavy freighters and one a passenger ship—have recently been added to the Seattle-Alaska trade. The *Kansas City* was purchased in San Francisco and has arrived in Seattle. She will be remodeled into a passenger ship and rechristened *Alaska*. The Alaska Transportation Co. has two other new ships—the *Burlington* and *Bennington*, recently purchased Great Lakes freighters. These will be overhauled and renamed the *Juneau* and *Valdez*, respectively. The Admiral Line adds the *Rutland* and *Ogdensburg*. These also will have new names—*Clark* and *Sebree*. They are large freighters.

There have been, for some weeks past, several factors working toward the establishment of better shipping facilities between this section and the west coast of South America, and it is not improbable that the first of the coming year will see a marked improvement in this direction.

MILAN CONSUL AND COMMERCE CHAMBER COOPERATE.

[Consul John H. Grout, Milan, Italy, Sept. 30.]

The Milan consulate is in frequent receipt of large numbers of letters from American business houses, requesting such information as will assist in increasing trade with this consular district. The American Chamber of Commerce in Milan, also, is dealing daily with a large volume of inquiries. It is suggested that those addressing this office inclose carbon copies of their letters, to be handed over to the American Chamber of Commerce in Milan, and thus two interested organizations will give the matter attention.

Where a carbon copy is inclosed, it will not be necessary to state that it is intended for the Chamber, as that will be understood. Letters addressed to the American Chamber of Commerce in Milan need not be accompanied by carbon copies. Many lines of business are represented in the membership of the organization, and this facilitates obtaining information, and often establishing good business connections. Letters from American purchasers should preferably be addressed to the Chamber of Commerce.

BRADFORD JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, England, Oct. 18.]

Among the many noteworthy Bradford municipal enterprises for children's welfare is the Juvenile Employment Bureau. By an admirable system of cooperation between teacher, medical officer, and employer the mental and physical capabilities, as well as the predispositions of the boys and girls, are considered in connection with the opportunities offered in office or mill.

Three months before each child leaves school a card is sent to the education office, giving a record of health and school career and offering suggestions as to the kind of employment most suitable for the case under consideration. A member of the district committee then calls upon the child's parents and in many instances suggests a course at the city's night schools, or makes an appointment with parents and child to call at the bureau, where full information regarding employment may be had. Especially worthy of note is the manner in which employers have responded to the opportunities of the bureau; in fact, during the past year inquiries from employers were more numerous than from children.

The scope of this work is by no means limited to children leaving school, and perhaps one of the most important phases of juvenile employment in Bradford is the reconsideration of the cases of those who are dissatisfied and unsuccessful in their positions. The children's clinic and the open-air schools are coordinated with the employment bureau and, by early diagnosis of defects and diseases, have obtained excellent results in the prevention and cure of disabilities and embryonic maladies. Numerous cases have been recommended to the juvenile board for open-air employment, and others are designated to report at intervals to the medical officer in charge.

[A copy of the report of the juvenile bureau for the year ended July 31, 1915, may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Ask for file No. 68240.]

CANARY ISLANDS HAVE NO SPONGE FISHERIES.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, July 6.]

An Ohio firm makes inquiry as to the supply of sponges in Canary Island waters. Despite the fact that the Canary Archipelago lies in a latitude favorable to the growth of sponges of all kinds, there are no commercial sponge fisheries here nor have any sponge growths been found in the waters around the islands.

This is said to be due to the fact that the Canary group, being composed of a cluster of deeply submerged volcanic peaks, now considered extinct, is surrounded by extremely deep waters. The shores of the islands descend so abruptly into the ocean bed that thousands of feet of water can be encountered only a few hundred feet from the tide levels of the islands.

According to the authorities of the Scientific and Nautical School maintained in Teneriffe by the Spanish Government, this tremendous depth of the ocean bed surrounding the Canaries explains the absence of any sponge growths near them.

TSINGTAU'S TRADE IN RAW COTTON AND COTTON YARN.

[Consul Willys R. Peck, Tsingtau, China, Sept. 30.]

The Japanese newspaper in Tsingtau has published articles on the export of raw cotton from the Province of Shantung and the trade in cotton yarn. It states that a considerable amount of raw cotton finds its way to Japan, about 2,000 bales going to Osaka by each steamer. Most of this cotton is shipped by Chinese merchants, and with the new crop, soon to be marketed, it is expected that the cotton market in Tsingtau will be brisk.

"The annual import of cotton yarn into Tsingtau from Japan," says this newspaper, "in the period before the war is reported to have reached a value of 10,000,000 yen (about \$5,000,000), and it has remained the largest import ever since the outbreak of hostilities. The high price of raw cotton in international markets recently has encouraged good prices for cotton yarn, and the variety bearing the 'Fan' trade-mark is quoted at the remarkable price of \$57.87. The large Japanese dealers say that the improved exchange and brisk demand from the Chinese is creating the best business in five years."

In discussing the raw cotton situation, the newspaper says that the strong prices ruling for cotton in Japan have affected the price in Tsingtau, China. The usual price of \$0.069 per pound has gone up to \$0.078 per pound. It is, however, quoted in Osaka, Japan, at \$0.088 per pound, and the price in Tsinan, Shantung, at present exchange being equivalent to \$0.078 per pound, even if freight and other charges are added and deduction made for loss of weight in transit, it still can be sold at \$0.086 per pound without losing money.

MODERN CREAMERY FOR CORNWALL.

[Consul G. R. Taggart, Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, Oct. 26.]

The new model dairy and butter factory that is building in Cornwall will soon be completed. The equipment and its installation will cost about \$3,500 and will consist of the most modern machinery, including the usual clarifier, pasteurizer and cooler, bottler, sterilizer, washer, tanks, pipes, pump, cans, and bottles. There will also be a 600-pound churn and butter worker, and a refrigerator 7 by 10 by 11 feet. Power will be furnished by an electric motor. All this equipment came from American branch houses.

This dairy enterprise plans to buy and sell milk and cream and manufacture butter. The milk will be handled in as sanitary a manner as possible. Delivery will be made before breakfast—a convenience which Cornwall has not heretofore had. The supply of milk and cream will be purchased from the farmers in this dairying district. Most of the milk has heretofore been taken to the cheese factories, and the farmers will doubtless profit by this new demand for their milk. The milk will be bought by weight, and the price will be regulated by the cheese prices.

The butter will be made from pasteurized cream. Up to this time Cornwall has bought its butter from creameries in the Province of Quebec, and in Ontario Province from creameries as far distant as Belleville.

GERMAN METHOD OF UTILIZING WASTE BONE BLACK.

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin, Oct. 4.]

Only recently has the waste bone black, discarded by refiners of sugar, petroleum, and glucose, and by other decolorizing institutions, been a subject of serious study in Germany by these factories.

The method of refining, at first, largely determined what disposition they would make of their waste material. For instance, in large sugar refineries filtration processes are essential. If the waste bone black is used as an absorbent during the filtration it can not be sold for other industrial purposes without being revived and again purified. During the last few years filter presses have been so improved that they are now largely used instead of bone black. Various German patents treat of processes to purify bone black after it has been used as an absorbent. One of the most prominent of these patents covers a process to purify bone black, using a gaseous sulphurous acid instead of diluted hydrochloric acid.

Relative Values of Unpurified, Semipurified, and Pure Product.

Several industrial chemical firms at Berlin, Hamburg, and other large German cities buy up, collect, and purify waste bone black. Chemical firms and refineries offer bone black for sale in an unpurified, semipurified, and absolutely pure condition, either moist or entirely dry. Bone black unpurified can be purchased by the German carload (22,046.2 pounds) at prices ranging from \$1.90 to \$9.52 per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds), according to quality. The semipurified product in a moist condition sells at \$17.85 per 100 kilos, while the same product purified brings \$33.32 per 100 kilos. Bone black moist, chemically purified with acid, sells at \$69.02 per 100 kilos; the same product dry at the much higher price of \$130.90 per 100 kilos.

Germany's foreign trade in bone black, bone ash, and animal charcoal for 1912 and 1913 and for the first six months of 1914, compared with the corresponding period of 1913, amounted to: Imports in 1913, \$174,216; in 1912, \$144,942; exports in 1913, \$282,268; in 1912, \$235,144; imports first six months of 1914, \$64,498; corresponding period in 1913, \$70,686; exports for half year in 1914, \$150,654; in 1913, \$141,848.

[Lists of German manufacturers of bone black, manufacturers of animal charcoal, sugar refiners, and oil refiners may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67934.]

LUBRICATING OILS IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Nov. 5.]

About 100 barrels of lubricating oils are consumed annually in Bermuda, consisting approximately of 20 barrels low-grade motor-boat oils, 50 barrels marine oils, 20 barrels kerosene-oil lubricants, and 10 barrels heavy cylinder oils. The principal uses are for motor boats, steamships, and machinery. As far as can be ascertained, all lubricating oils used in Bermuda come from the United States, and the prices paid therefor per gallon f. o. b. New York are as follows: Kerosene oil, \$0.40; low-grade motor-boat oil, \$0.25; marine oils, \$0.30; heavy cylinder oils, \$0.60.

[A list of Bermuda dealers in lubricating oils forwarded by the consul may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 68600.]

ATTACHÉ POINTS WAY TO BETTER AMERICAN PACKING.

[Commercial Attaché Julian H. Arnold, American Legation, Peking, China, Sept. 29.]

Considerable evidence of bad packing on the part of American shippers has been seen here. Bales of American cotton sheetings have arrived in Shanghai in very bad condition, owing to inferior packing, while alongside these poorly packed American bales were beautifully wrapped British bales. Machinery has arrived in Shanghai with parts broken on account of careless packing. I have myself received furniture from American manufacturers in a most dilapidated condition on account of the packing. All our consuls in China have probably had specific instances brought to their attention.

There is one phase of American packing for foreign shipment which does not seem to have been included in criticisms directed against American shippers. Perhaps, instead of using the expression "bad packing," it would be better to say "unintelligent packing," for there have been numerous instances in which goods were packed too well, involving unnecessary expense. For instance, recently in Shanghai, American hardware-trade possibilities were investigated, and several dealers said that much American hardware came to China packed too well, materially increasing the cost of the goods in this market. Some articles which would carry easily without any chance of breakage were packed like glassware. Packing boxes were placed within packing boxes, adding to the freight charges.

In several instances American manufacturers and exporters have taken the liberty of adding charges for crates and packing without much consideration for the proportionate cost which these items bear to the articles shipped. One big American mail-order house, which has a very extensive trade throughout the Orient, is credited with being extremely careful in regard to its packing, but is criticized because its added charges for crates and packing are disproportionately high.

I would suggest that American shippers place in packages shipped a printed slip calling for comments from the consignees on the packing of the parcels received by them, and in this way, in course of time, they will probably receive valuable suggestions. The only way to overcome this criticism is to understand wherein the fault lies in each specific instance.

AMERICANS ACCEPT MADRID PUBLICITY OFFER.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Spain, Oct. 16.]

As a result of the publication of the article entitled "Madrid Chamber of Commerce Offers Gratuitous Publicity" in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for August 25, short notices of American firms desiring Spanish agents for their products form fully half of the two pages of "Trade Opportunities" in the current issue of the chamber's *Boletín Oficial*. At the end of the "Opportunities" a paragraph (in Spanish) tells of the reciprocal service offered by the Madrid consulate:

The American consul in Madrid informs Spanish merchants who would like to do business with his country that a notice from them would be published without charge in the official Journal of the United States, *COMMERCE REPORTS*. All requests should be directed to the offices of the consulate, Lealtad, 9.

INCREASING INTER-AMERICAN TRADE.

[Ambassador Frederic J. Stimson, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Oct. 4.]

Under the caption, "Increasing inter-American trade," *La Nación*, a leading newspaper of Buenos Aires, recently discussed the economic principles underlying a successful commercial campaign in the southern Republic and the best methods to employ in seeking to win these markets permanently. After recounting the expansion of commerce between the United States and South America as one of the problems most engaging the governors, manufacturers, and capitalists of the former country at the present time, the journal continues:

Must Adopt Competitors' Tactics.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo, has drawn up a program of ways to strengthen relations between the United States and the South American Republics (especially Argentina and Brazil) that embraces banking projects to grant credit for the formation and encouragement of steamship companies with direct and regular sailings, uniformity in the regulations governing interchange, and, finally, a Pan American congress to meet annually at Washington to consider, advised by traveling commissions, all matters in connection with commercial advancement.

The project is sound, but in being put into practice it may meet with stumbling blocks if the steps taken are based only on the situation created by the war. In the permanent holding of the advantages secured one must not lose sight of relations traditionally established with European commerce, banking, and manufacture, and commerce with Europe will try to recover its place later.

The chief requisite that the American will need to meet with definite success is, then, the adoption of the ways and means by which their competitors, for the moment withdrawn, managed to secure a preeminent position in our interchange. These ways and means considered the advantages of long credits, offering facilities which encouraged us to acquire their goods, and were based on a detailed study of the Argentine market, its demand, expenses, qualities, prices, and individualities of consumption.

Investment of Capital the Best Method.

The most efficient way of conquering these markets is the financial, the economic way, which gets into touch with the country's progress through the public works and service and identifies itself with the prosperity and development of the Nation. In consequence, the investment of American capital ought to be made in such undertakings as will weld it firmly and organically to the vitality of the country. Loans for progressive schemes, such as port works and railroads, and furnishing permanent capital for improvements are part and parcel of the program of trade expansion and radiation quite as important as schemes of a purely commercial nature, which latter create relationships at once unstable and contingent.

In view of these considerations, the main objective of the American policy of expansion in this country must be financial quite as much as merely commercial, for it is the former which must strengthen the bonds between the two countries and establish relations identified with the growth of the sources of the country's wealth and its factors. Capital from North America, besides being of a banking nature, must be economically applied to develop the sources of the country's riches.

The investment of North American capital, preferably circulatory, should be the desideratum of the North American campaign.

A large order for paper-box machinery is expected to result, reports Consul General A. Gaulin, of Marseille, France, from a Trade Opportunity that was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for September 28, and other opportunities will likely result in considerable purchases of glucose and of bronze powders for printing purposes in the near future.

NATAL'S TRADE FOR HALF YEAR.

[Consul William W. Masterson, Durban, Natal Province, South Africa, Sept. 28.]

Natal's trade returns for the six months ending June 30, 1915, while \$5,481,123 (or 16 per cent) below the total value in the first half of 1914 are still not discouraging in view of the war and its consequences. Compared with the corresponding months of last year the imports and exports into the Province during January-June reached a value of:

Months.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
January.....	\$4, 074, 744	\$2, 489, 730	\$2, 375, 762	\$1, 221, 083
February.....	3, 606, 737	2, 461, 991	1, 890, 708	1, 460, 636
March.....	4, 122, 777	3, 064, 756	1, 553, 100	1, 852, 394
April.....	3, 774, 876	3, 366, 980	1, 932, 306	2, 816, 531
May.....	3, 809, 380	3, 961, 511	1, 398, 544	1, 120, 590
June.....	4, 274, 057	3, 457, 128	1, 162, 695	1, 241, 293
Total.....	23, 662, 571	18, 802, 096	10, 333, 175	9, 712, 527

Of the imports during the first six months of the current year the British Empire supplied \$13,781,646 worth, against \$16,272,388 worth in January-June, 1914, the United States coming next with \$2,386,536 worth, against \$2,114,456. The British Empire also took the bulk of the exports—\$7,387,556, against \$7,445,102 last year—and the United States was again second in the list, with purchases valued at \$680,998, as contrasted with \$73,786 in the first half of 1914. This increase in the exports to the United States consisted almost wholly of South African wool, which, as noted in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 1 and 8 and June 22, has recently found a market there.

Falling Off Due to Lack of Vessels.

When one studies the shipping record for the six months under review the reason for the falling off in the Province's commerce becomes apparent, for during the first half of 1914, 704 vessels entered and 717 cleared from the port of Durban, whereas in January-June, 1915, there were but 441 entrances and 433 clearances, with corresponding decreases in the cargo totals. The comparative figures follow:

	Entered first 6 months—		Cleared first 6 months—	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
Number of vessels.....	704	441	717	433
Net registered tonnage:				
Coastwise.....	616, 028	438, 761	676, 583	427, 231
Over-sea.....	1, 528, 308	758, 158	1, 477, 128	754, 046
Tons of cargo landed or shipped:				
Coastwise.....	11, 580	10, 452	132, 545	123, 291
Over-sea.....	352, 529	266, 871	602, 963	612, 730

• Includes bunker coal.

There is no question that had shipping facilities been as usual a loss in trade would not have occurred. High freights also had their effect, the rates in some instances being twice those of normal times.

UNITED STATES TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA GROWS.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Oct. 8.]

The exports from the port of Sydney, Australia, to the United States during the nine months ended September 30, 1915, show a decided increase, as compared with the corresponding period in 1914, notwithstanding the excessively dry weather in Australia and restrictions due to the war. The value of the exports by quarters was:

Quarter ended—	1914	1915	Increase.
March	\$3,257,813	\$6,823,028	\$3,565,215
June	1,843,629	2,033,120	189,491
September	1,477,647	8,922,222	7,444,575
Total	6,579,089	17,778,370	11,199,281

There has been a very decided increase in tonnage and number of vessels from the United States to Sydney during these nine months, as compared with the similar period in 1914. The figures, compared with those for the first nine months of 1914, were:

Quarter ended—	Vessels arrived.			Tonnage.		
	1914	1915	Increase.	1914	1915	Increase.
March	6	7	1	17,318	20,671	3,353
June	7	17	10	14,850	27,095	12,245
September	4	24	20	12,751	34,501	21,750
Total .....	.....	.....	31	.....	.....	37,349

Beginning in December, the Oceanic Steamship Co. will put in service an additional passenger vessel between Sydney and San Francisco. By this new arrangement a vessel will sail from Sydney to San Francisco every three weeks instead of once a month, as at present.

There has never been a more opportune time for improving the shipping facilities between Sydney and the Pacific coast of the United States. Larger vessels, with greater speed, would be welcomed by the people of Australia and our Pacific coast.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

Five hundred bushels of potatoes to the acre is the accomplishment of a Nova Scotia farmer. How he did it is told by the Halifax Herald of November 12, 1915, to which attention is called by Consul General Evan E. Young, of Halifax.

KOLAR GOLD OUTPUT LIKELY TO LAST 20 YEARS.

[Dr. W. F. Smeeth, Director of Department of Mines and Geology in Mysore, India, in *Mysore Economic Journal*; article forwarded by Consul Lucien Memmlinger, Madras, Sept. 22.]

The mining of the Kolar gold field is the most important industry in Mysore State, if we exclude agriculture. Although confined to a small strip of country, less than 5 miles in length, it has already yielded gold to the value of nearly \$214,126,000. Including receipts from the sale of electric power and water, the net annual return to the Government is about 30 lakhs of rupees (\$973,300) while the yearly wage bill is over 80 lakhs of rupees (\$2,595,467).

The possibility of the extinction of this industry, or the probability of its continuance, is obviously a matter of considerable moment, but anything in the shape of a very definite pronouncement is out of the question.

The auriferous veins lie in a narrow belt of hornblende schists, about 3 miles in width, which is cut off on both sides and below by a later intrusive gneiss. The auriferous veins are believed to be older than the gneiss, and will therefore be cut off, along with the schists, at some depth below surface. This depth represents the ultimate limit of the Kolar gold field, and I see no reason to apprehend that it will be less than 10,000 to 15,000 feet from the surface and perhaps more. The cut-out may, of course, occur closer to surface, but the above figures are reasonably probable, and we need not hunt trouble.

Mines Now Down to Depth of 5,000 Feet.

The mines are now down to a depth of rather over 5,000 feet on the inclination of the veins, or to a maximum vertical depth of some 4,900 feet from the surface. This has taken over 30 years, and if we assume a downward development of 200 feet per annum we shall have reached a vertical depth of about 8,000 feet in 20 years, which is well within the ultimate limit suggested above. It is not improbable that with a low temperature gradient and efficient ventilation, mining can be carried down to 8,000 feet, and we need not speculate about greater depths; but it may be noted that down to this depth the whole of the ore will not be worked out in 20 years and that the total period of work will be more, probably 30 years.

We are assuming, however, that not only do the veins continue, but that the auriferous portions of them or the "shoots" continue to occur with sufficient frequency and of sufficient size to keep up the returns. No one can foresee if this will be so, but, while I see no reason to apprehend any systematic diminution for many years, it would be sound to contemplate reduction of output in the later years.

[Descriptions of the Mysore gold mines in the Kolar district were given in the *Handbook of India* (634 pages), published this year by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and in *Daily Consular and Trade Reports* for August 30, 1913. Copies of the *Handbook of India* may be obtained at \$1 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

The Danish hay crop is estimated at 1,149,000 tons, a drop of 471,000 tons from last year, reports Consul General Winslow.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Bromide of potassium, No. 19314.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm desires to correspond with producers of bromide of potassium.

Balsa trees, No. 19315.—A letter to the Bureau states that a man wishes to be placed in communication with importers of balsa trees. It is stated that a shipload could be furnished.

Soda fountains, No. 19316.—A report from an American consular officer in Italy states that the consulate would like to receive catalogues and price lists of soda fountains. Complete details as to construction and operations should be furnished.

General representation, No. 19317.—A real estate agent in France informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent manufacturers and exporters anxious to introduce goods on the French market. References given. He does not specify any particular line.

Automobile and motor supplies, No. 19318.—A merchant in Spain, dealing in automobile and motor supplies, desires to purchase these goods from American manufacturers on his own account, or act as agent. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred.

Cardboard, paste, office furniture, etc., No. 19319.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a merchant wishes to receive catalogues and information on cardboard; photographic paste; office furniture, such as tables and desks; mirrors; and glass cutters, all to be of a cheap grade. Correspondence may be in English.

Wooden spools, No. 19320.—A company in Scotland informs an American consular officer that it wishes to correspond with manufacturers of wooden spools, samples of which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 68686.)

Electrical supplies, No. 19321.—A report from an American consular officer in Russia states that an organization has requested catalogues, price lists, samples, and terms from firms manufacturing electrical supplies, such as carbon for arc lamps, with direct current; material for street lamps, with and without wicks; switches; safety devices, socket, with and without keys; meters, etc. Correspondence should be in Russian.

Domestic labor-saving devices, No. 19322.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm desires to correspond with manufacturers of domestic labor-saving devices and novelties of various descriptions. References given.

Cotton waste, No. 19323.—A report from an American consular officer in the East Indies states that a firm desires samples and quotations on first and second qualities of cotton waste for engineering and factory work. It is stated that 25 tons annually can be used. Terms to be arranged to suit seller. Correspondence may be in English.

Machinery, No. 19324.—A firm in Colombia informs an American consular officer that it desires information, catalogues, and prices on machinery for the weaving of jute cloth and bags. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred.

Electrical appliances, No. 19325.—An American consular officer in the Canary Islands reports that a business man in his district desires to establish commercial relations, on a commission basis, with manufacturers of electrical appliances. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Skating and bowling-alley supplies, No. 19326.—A company in Central America informs an American consular officer that it contemplates erecting a bowling alley and skating rink and requests that all information, literature, and suggestions, together with catalogues and prices of skates, skating-rink supplies, and bowling-alley fixtures, be sent to it.

Toys, No. 19327.—A teacher in care of one of the art schools in Australia informs an American consular officer that she desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of toys. Catalogues, giving prices, are desired as soon as possible.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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STANDARDS BUREAU MAKES SUPPLIES NOT FOUND IN MARKET.

The impossibility of obtaining certain grades of chemical porcelain ware, such as pyrometer tubes, mortars and pestles, etc., in the regular markets, has compelled the United States Bureau of Standards to make use of its own resources in supplying the lacking articles. The bureau reports that its efforts in that direction have produced very satisfactory results.

RETURN POSTAGE IN U. S. STAMPS VALUELESS ABROAD.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Denmark, Oct. 18.]

Many American firms inclose in their letters to the Copenhagen consulate stamped envelopes with American postage or postage stamps of the United States. These envelopes and United States stamps can not be used in this Kingdom for postage. Persons and firms in the United States finding it expedient to send reply postage should make use of the international reply coupon, which can be purchased at all post offices in the United States, and these coupons can be exchanged by this consulate for postage in Denmark to be used on letters destined to the United States.

TEN MONTHS' TRADE OF FRANCE.

[Cablegram from American Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris.]

The total value of the French foreign trade, except gold, silver, etc., for the 10 months ended October, 1915, was \$1,742,653,356; against \$1,961,187,642 for the same period in 1914. The imports amounted to \$1,270,569,952, against \$1,105,606,290 for the first 10 months of 1914, and the exports \$472,083,404, against \$855,581,352. The imports of food products were valued at \$411,818,382, against \$284,864,333; industrial materials, \$491,660,359, against \$630,890,752; and manufactures, \$367,091,211, against \$189,851,205. The exports of food products amounted to \$86,033,224, against \$102,423,556; industrial materials, \$102,049,329, against \$235,686,196; manufactures, \$258,011,471, against \$454,840,591; and postal packages, \$25,989,380, against \$62,631,009. The imports for October, 1915, were valued at \$14,320,423, compared with \$46,227,939 for the same month in 1914. The exports amounted to \$50,611,162, against \$35,396,779.

AMERICAN TRADE RECORD.

American foreign trade rose to the new high level of \$5,000,000,000 in the 12 months ending with October, 1915, according to figures made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. Imports of merchandise amounted to \$1,691,748,013, compared with \$1,880,414,501 in the preceding period, while exports aggregated \$3,318,634,636 against \$2,140,847,829 in the 12 months ending with October, 1914.

October exports also established a new high record, rising to \$334,638,578, or \$33,961,756 above the former record made in September last, and comparing with \$194,711,170 in October, 1914, and \$271,861,464 in October, 1913. October imports were \$148,529,620 against \$138,080,520 in October, 1914, and \$177,987,986 in October, 1912, the former October record.

The export balance for October was \$186,108,958, against \$56,630,650 in October, 1914, and for the 12 months ending with October \$1,626,886,623, compared with \$260,433,328 in the preceding period.

Free merchandise comprised 70.91 per cent of the total imports of October, 1915, as against 62.97 per cent of those of October, 1914.

Gold imports during October, 1915, amounted to \$79,669,359, against \$5,945,003 in October last year, and gold exports were valued at \$2,938,300 in October, 1915, compared with \$50,301,972 in October, 1914. October thus showed a net inward gold movement of \$76,731,059 instead of a net outward gold movement of \$44,356,969 in October last year. For the 12 months ending with October gold imports aggregated \$357,061,165, compared with \$58,001,088 in the preceding period, and gold exports for the 12 months ending with October amounted to \$30,532,386, against \$225,194,301 a year earlier. A net outward gold movement of \$167,193,213 in the 12 months ending with October last year has been followed by a net inward gold movement of \$326,528,779 in the 12 months just ended.

FRENCH PENALTY FOR SALE OF SHIP TO FOREIGNER.

[Cablegram from American Embassy, Paris, Nov. 20.]

The following appeared in Journal Officiel November 14, 1915:

Article one. During the present war and until the expiration of a period of six months following the cessation of hostilities, any voluntary sale to a foreigner of a French seagoing vessel is prohibited both in France and abroad. However, exceptions to this prohibition may be authorized subject to conditions to be specified by the Minister of Marine.

Article 2. Any deed executed in contravention of the preceding stipulation shall be void and the vendor rendered liable to a term of imprisonment varying from 1 to 6 months and a fine of from 16 to 500 francs, or to one of these two penalties alone. Moreover, the ship shall be confiscated, and in the event of its capture not having been effected, the court shall order in substitution of confiscation the payment of a supplementary fine equal to the half of the vessel, which shall be determined by the court.

Article 463 of the Penal Code relating to attenuating circumstances may be applied even regarding confiscation, in place of which there may be imposed a fine of less amount than the value of the ship.

[Copies of the British, German, and Austrian laws in regard to the transfer to foreigners of their national ships were given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 18, 1915.]

COTTON GINNED, CONSUMED, ETC.

According to a preliminary report issued by the United States Bureau of Census, the number of bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1915 prior to November 14, 1915, was 8,777,794 (counting round as half bales and excluding linters), compared with 11,668,240 bales for the same period in 1914 and 10,444,529 bales for 1913. Round bales in 1915 amounted to 82,582, compared with 31,904 bales for 1914 and 74,167 bales for 1913. The number of sea-island bales included in the 1915 figures was 69,477, compared with 54,197 bales for 1914 and 51,950 bales for 1913.

The statistics for 1915 are subject to slight corrections when checked against the individual returns of the ginners being transmitted by mail. The corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to November 1 are 7,382,578 bales.

Cotton consumed during the month of October, 1915, amounted to 500,635 bales. Cotton on hand in consuming establishments on October 31 was 1,345,749 bales, and in public storage and at compresses 4,171,474 bales. The number of active consuming cotton spindles for the month was 31,379,385. Domestic cotton exported during October, 1915, was 674,655 running bales, and foreign cotton imported, 13,506 equivalent 500-pound bales.

FISHERIES BUREAU WORKERS TO BE SEEN ON FILMS.

The work that the United States Bureau of Fisheries is doing in the interest of the fishing industry of the country is soon to be illustrated by the use of motion pictures. In connection with its fish-cultural operations, the Bureau of Fisheries has secured temporarily the services of an expert operator, who has been assigned to duty on the upper Mississippi River, to take views of the rescue operations and the activities in connection with the propagation of the freshwater mussel.

The film maker will later go to the Great Lakes to take views illustrating the whitefish and lake-trout operations. On the completion of this duty he will be assigned to other fields.

The entire work of the Division of Fish Culture of the Bureau of Fisheries will be fully illustrated when the motion-picture tour is completed, and the results will be available for exhibition wherever there is an interest in this branch of the work of the Department of Commerce.

MANCHURIAN MERCHANTS REGARD AMERICAN TERMS SEVERE.

[Translated by the American consulate at Harbin from the Harbinski Vestnik (official organ of the administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway) of Oct. 10.]

Merchants at Harbin, in reply to inquiries, are complaining that the principal obstacles in the development of trade with the United States are the difficult terms insisted upon by American firms. For example, these firms insist that half the money must be paid down with the order and the other half paid upon the arrival of the steamer delivering the goods at the nearest port. These terms are indeed very hard, if one takes into consideration the lack of credit at present.

NEW REGULATIONS GOVERNING EXPORT PROCEDURE.

The announcement that new United States regulations relative to export procedure will become effective January 1, 1916, has created such intense interest among manufacturers and shippers that the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, has found it necessary to reprint the new order with explanatory text. That pamphlet is just off the press and is being supplied free of charge to those interested, upon application to the above-mentioned office. All shipments for export to foreign countries or to Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico will be affected by the new regulations.

Accuracy of statement and completeness of description in export statistics are the primary objects of the new procedure. Heretofore the data received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce have frequently been lacking in these respects, largely by reason of the fact that interior shippers consign to their agents at the seaboard for export goods unaccompanied by adequate descriptions for use in making export declarations. The new regulations seek to remedy this defect.

The importance of detailed and accurate returns as a basis for the statistical information published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is apparent when it is realized that the export trade of the country now exceeds \$3,000,000,000 annually and is rapidly increasing. With practically all commodities participating in that growth, interest in commercial procedure is widespread and to meet the demand for authoritative instructions regarding the new requirements in export trade, the main features of Treasury Decision No. 35708, containing the regulations on that subject, have been summarized as follows:

1. A simplified form of shippers' export declaration has been prescribed, alike for exports by rail and by vessel. It is so drawn up as to prevent the disclosure of the value of goods to persons outside the customs service. The duplicate to be handed over to the shipper's agent at the seaboard or to the common carrier as proof of compliance with customs requirements will contain no statement of value.

2. The oath to shippers' declarations for export by water may be taken before any person authorized to administer oaths and not as heretofore exclusively before the collector of customs at the port of exportation. This will facilitate the preparation of export declarations by the original shipper instead of by his agent at the seaboard, who is less cognizant of the character and value of the merchandise and the country of final destination. Manufacturers themselves are urged to make out the export declarations wherever practicable, to assist in which work the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce cheerfully supplies to those interested Schedule B containing the official classification of all merchandise entering export trade.

3. The requirements on the part of common carriers have been somewhat simplified and hereafter copies of the waybills will be accepted from the railroad companies in lieu of car manifests. In vessel manifests a notation that the values are as stated on the shippers' declarations will be accepted in lieu of a detailed statement of the value of each shipment.

4. On and after January 1, 1916, the legal requirement that goods shall not pass out of the jurisdiction of the United States until shippers' declarations are presented in due form will be strictly enforced. Exception will be made only when the carrier gives bond to produce within 15 days export declarations (originals or duplicates) for all shipments.

Compliance with the new regulations will impose no hardships on exporters who have been observing the legal requirements. On the

contrary their convenience is served, and the cooperation of shippers generally will aid the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in publishing full and accurate information regarding the export trade, and thus furnish to the manufacturers of the country an accurate business guide.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF RICE IN ITALY.

[Consul W. F. Kelley, Rome, Oct. 16.]

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics at Rome has for some time past been conducting investigations regarding the present stocks and probable production of foodstuffs in Italy, with a view to enabling the Government to take any necessary precautionary measures to avoid a shortage of supplies. The results of the investigation have been published in a local trade paper.

The culture of rice is an important and growing industry in Italy, and the country is the principal European producer of this cereal, which enters into the preparation of foods in Italy to a far greater extent than in the United States. After wheat, which is so largely consumed in the form of macaroni, spaghetti, etc., rice is the most important cereal article of consumption. Any shortage would therefore seriously affect the general population.

The production of rice in Italy has been: From 1904 to 1913, average annual production, 502,489 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.62 pounds); 1909 to 1913, average annual production, 475,044 tons; 1913, total production, 543,200 tons; 1914, total production, 543,000 tons.

Change Produced by Raising Coarser Kind of Rice.

The exportation of prepared rice was 61,200 metric tons in 1912, 44,700 metric tons in 1913, and 50,000 metric tons from January to July, 1914. The production of 1913 and 1914 was notably greater than the average of the preceding years, for the reason that a coarser kind of rice was raised, which is more productive and has greater power of resistance to climatic changes. The estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, for 1915, give a production of 530,000 metric tons, which is less than the last two preceding years but greater than the average of the last 5 or 10 years.

Imports of rice into Italy, even before the outbreak of the war, were never very great, and have decreased considerably since then, probably because the price of imported rice has more than doubled during the war, chiefly as a result of increased freight rates. As, however, the production is sufficient to supply the demand for home consumption, there is a very limited market in Italy for imported rice.

JAPAN GETS RUSSIAN SHIP ORDER.

[Far Eastern Review, Shanghai, September, 1915.]

A shipping company at Odessa has decided to place with a Japanese dock company an order for constructing several passenger steamers of a large type. The order includes eight steamers of the first-class type. The company will order several steamers later for use in the foreign service. The Odessa agents of the Japanese dock company, together with Russian engineers, are drawing the designs.

GOOD SUMAC CROP IN SICILY.

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Italy, Oct. 19.]

The 1915 sumac crop is above a normal one. Last year's crop amounted to nearly 40,000 tons and this year's crop will be one-third larger. The quality of the greater part of the crop is very good, but about one-fourth is inferior in grade, as there was too little rain in certain sections.

Prices are a little lower than last year, although the old stock was entirely sold out. This is due to the increase in the crop and also to the uncertainty of exportation. Last year limited quantities were exported to Germany and Austria. By royal decree exportation will be permitted till October 30, but unless another decree is issued exportation will stop. Prices f. o. b. Palermo are now \$4.15 to \$4.44 per 220 pounds for natural and \$5.80 to \$6 for ground sumac. There is no prospect of a drop in prices, as the dealers have purchased at a price which will compel them to maintain the present prices.

Imports of sumac into the United States during the past three fiscal years ended June 30, 1915, have been as follows:

Sumac.	1913		1914		1915	
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Unground.....	621,366	\$12,420	1,335,566	\$32,238	1,258,204	\$32,613
Ground.....	14,112,112	189,255	9,678,719	131,580	12,048,917	294,434
Extract of.....	1,270,825	44,568	1,463,297	59,022	727,449	35,666

Ground sumac, which had been dutiable on entering the United States at three-tenths of a cent per pound, was by the tariff act of October 3, 1913, made free of duty, while the duty on the extract was reduced from five-eighths of a cent to three-eighths of a cent per pound. Unground sumac was continued on the free list.

BURMA USES AMERICAN COMPANY'S SEWING MACHINES.

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Rangoon, Sept. 20.]

During the year ended March 31, 1914, there were 16,306 sewing machines imported into Burma. Of these 13,667 came from the United Kingdom, 2,549 from Germany, and 25 from the United States. In the year ended March 31, 1915, imports decreased to 10,832, of which the United Kingdom supplied 9,723; Germany, 1,067; and the United States, 21. This decrease was, of course, due to the war.

The great majority of sewing machines sold in Burma are the product of the Glasgow factory of an American corporation. This company maintains a branch office in Rangoon, under the management of a European superintendent, and also maintains agencies in every town of any size throughout the Province. Sales are made on long credits and by monthly payments. The department stores of Rangoon also sell sewing machines.

[A list of department stores and commission agents in that city may be obtained by application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67816.]

OYSTERMEN OF PUGET SOUND ORGANIZE.

[Commercial Agent W. B. Henderson. Seattle, Wash.]

An organization has just been perfected for the purpose of increasing the output of the oyster beds in the waters adjacent to Olympia and Shelton. The association is known as the Olympia Oyster Growers' and Dealers' Association, and the members are confident that they will be able to produce a sufficient number of oysters to make them a staple article of food in the Pacific Northwest. The president of the organization is G. W. Ingham, of Olympia. E. N. Steele, of the same city, is secretary, and there are in the organization several other officers, including three vice presidents, a treasurer, and a board of directors.

These men realized some years ago that better methods of cultivation of oysters must be adopted if the bivalve was to hold its own as a commercial article. There is a decidedly increased demand from the rapidly growing population of the Pacific Coast States for oysters. This demand was greater than the supply, and as oysters became scarcer the price climbed higher and higher. This scarcity was superinduced partly by the natural enemies of the oyster and partly by the havoc of the elements. The Olympic oyster, which has its habitat near Olympia and Shelton, grows only on beds between low and high tide. As a result the oyster is in danger of cold during the long run outs in winter and in danger of perishing in the summer months when the beds are exposed.

Large Amount Spent in Building Concrete Dikes.

In view of these facts the oystermen have spent considerable sums of money building concrete dikes. It costs in the neighborhood of \$1,000 per acre to protect the beds with dikes, and as a result of that work a few inches of water are kept over the beds all the time, thus protecting the oysters from extremes of heat and cold.

By working the beds along scientific lines, starfish are eliminated and mussels destroyed. The starfish devour the oysters, and as mussels require the same food as the oyster they deplete the food supply. The Federal Government is cooperating with the oystermen to the extent of permitting the destruction of certain kinds of oyster-eating ducks.

With the means above mentioned the oyster growers have been able to increase the supply of oysters by guarding against the elements, protecting against natural enemies, and increasing the food supply. They have also increased the size of the oysters. It is said that the association proposes to work to increase the supply of oysters still further; to maintain the hygienic standard under which this sea food is marketed; to conserve the oysters; to "boost" the oyster as a product of the Pacific coast; and to establish the Olympic oyster as a staple article of food. Nearly all the oyster growers in the vicinity of Olympia and Shelton have joined the association.

The recent sale of an American cement mixer to the city of Kingston and of two carloads of raisins to a wholesaler in that Canadian port resulted from the trade-extension efforts of Consul Felix S. S. Johnson.

ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS IN BANGKOK.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Siam, Sept. 20.]

Bangkok, the only city in Siam supplied with electric power for industrial purposes, has two electric light and power plants, namely, the Siam Electricity Co. (Ltd.), a private stock company, and the municipal light and power station, owned and operated by the Siamese Government [and described at some length in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Nov. 28, 1914].

The Siam Electricity Co. (Ltd.) began operation in 1890 as a Danish company, but a few years ago Belgian capitalists acquired a controlling interest in the business. This concern has had a successful career, paying for many years a dividend of 12 per cent, and the shares have trebled in value. It is furnished with Terrarie, Thompson, G. E. C., and other motors; Morley, G. E. C., Short, and other dynamos. The total capacity of the plant for alternating-current power is 4,885 kilowatts and for direct 1,850 kilowatts. The alternating current is of 50 and 100 cycles; the phases used for motors, 3 or 1; voltage, 100, 220, 500, and 3,500. The voltage ordinarily used for direct-current motors is 500.

The Government power station operates under a similar system, but supplies power for Government purposes only.

Few Industries Use Power—Imports of Electrical Goods.

The Siam Electricity Co. (Ltd.) supplies power for the Bangkok overhead-trolley system of tramways for some local printing presses and pumps, but there are no manufacturing plants requiring electric power. In the rice and sawmilling industries steam power is used, and besides docking, boat building, and ice and aerated-water making there are no other industrial plants of any importance in Siam.

The imports of electrical goods and apparatus into Siam declined from \$415,851 in 1913-14 to \$174,982 in 1914-15, but the high figures for 1913-14 are accounted for by the large imports for the new Government power station during that year. The average yearly value of imports for the half decade ended March 31, 1913, was \$233,861. The contribution to these imports by the leading countries during the fiscal year 1915 was: United States, \$23,637 worth; Germany, \$61,941; United Kingdom, \$41,335; and Japan, \$25,892.

Electric motors, electric tram-car equipment, telephone and telegraph supplies, X-ray apparatus, electric fans, bells, batteries, and a variety of similar goods are in demand. The import duty on all electrical machinery and supplies is 3 per cent ad valorem.

NOVA SCOTIA TOWN-PLANNING ACT.

The publication of a brief article on "Town Planning in Nova Scotia" in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 22 last brought to the Halifax consulate general a number of requests from the United States for copies of the act, which Consul General Evan E. Young obtained and forwarded to the inquirers. He has also forwarded copies to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and these may be examined by interested persons either at the Bureau's Washington office or at its various branches. Ask for file No. 68373.

TRADE-EXTENSION WORK BY CONSULAR SERVICE.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Spain, Oct. 22.]

Reports from this office regarding the shortage of coal in Seville published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 8 and 24, 1915, have resulted in one cargo of American coal being shipped here and another 2,600-ton cargo in transit sold. One company reports that it has appointed an agent in Barcelona, through whom the order was received, and another states that "through information which you furnished to interested parties in your territory we have received an order for coal, which we expect to ship at an early date."

The consulate having received an inquiry regarding the possible sale of rubber goods in Seville, published a trade note in Spanish in a local commercial journal, and a firm in Buffalo now writes: "We are pleased to advise you that we have received a number of inquiries, and we have secured some business from one firm in question. * * * We have every reason to believe that this firm will prove quite a profitable connection, especially as soon as we make metric sizes."

Another local firm advises the consulate that through this office they have gotten in touch with another rubber goods manufacturer in the United States, have already sent them an order, and have gotten the promise of one Spanish firm to purchase all of its large supply of rubber goods from the American manufacturer.

A grinding and separating machinery manufacturer in Ohio writes the consulate that he is in communication with parties whose addresses were given him by this consulate, and the last communication received states that he has "a customer for our machinery."

A road-making machinery firm in Ohio writes the consulate that it has made a sale of machinery to a party in Seville.

Another manufacturer of drills and machinery states that he has "been fortunate in closing an agreement for an exclusive representative for Spain, who has sent several nice orders and remittances."

A glass company in West Virginia writes the consulate that through the efforts of this consulate it has been able to secure a representative for the whole district of Andalusia.

Other results have undoubtedly been satisfactory, but the above are the only ones that have come directly to the notice of this consulate during the past three months.

SINO-AMERICAN BANK REGISTERED.

[National Review of China, Oct. 9.]

The long-planned scheme of a Sino-American bank with a capital of \$10,000,000 silver (about \$5,000,000 U. S. currency), promoted by Chang Chen-hsun, the ex-President of the Chinese Business Men's Party to America, Hsiang Jui-kun, the ex-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, and Yang Ju, has been registered in the Ministry of Finance. The shares will be equally subscribed by American and Chinese capitalists. It is reported that \$3,000,000 (\$1,500,000 U. S. currency) has already been subscribed by the Chinese promoters.

The value of millstones produced in the United States dropped from \$200,000 in 1880 to \$43,000 last year.

DAIRY PRODUCTS AT MARSEILLE, FRANCE.

[Vice Consul Paul H. Cram, Marseille, France, Oct. 11.]

The Marseille consular district, which has an area of about 20,400 square miles, includes the Mediterranean region of France, except the Department of the Alpes-Maritimes, and also embraces the island of Corsica. The climate, distinctly different from that of the rest of France, is essentially dry, with long, hot summers and mild winters. The rainfall, insufficient for the requirements of pasture lands, is very unequally distributed over the different seasons of the year.

The production of cow's milk is strictly limited to the local demand for the unmanufactured product, except in a few places. The annual production in this consular district is estimated at 32,640,000 gallons. Owing to the lack of grazing lands, the cows are kept in stables throughout the year. Consequently, rural localities present no advantages over cities for the production of milk. On the contrary, cities and their suburbs are very important centers of production, on account of their greater facilities for marketing. At Marseille 15,000 cows are nearly sufficient to meet the local demand.

Small Per Capita Consumption of Butter.

In southern France the per capita consumption of butter is considerably smaller than in the United States. It is considered a luxury rather than a necessity. In many households of the middle class butter is served only a few times a month. Furthermore, in this region, as in all Mediterranean countries, vegetable oil, particularly olive oil, is generally utilized for cooking purposes instead of butter.

Owing to favorable climatic conditions and the character of the grazing lands, the production of ewe's milk is considerable. In fact, the utilization of this milk for the manufacture of Roquefort cheese is the only branch of the dairy industry in this district which has attained notable success. Practically the entire industry is in the hands of 12 or 15 firms established at Roquefort. These firms have founded branch establishments in various parts of southern France, particularly in Corsica and the Departments of the Gard and the Hérault. The latest available statistics concerning the production of Roquefort cheese in this district are: Department of Hérault, 840 metric tons of 2,204.62 pounds each; Corsica, 735 tons; and Gard, 420 tons.

It is estimated that about 11,000 gallons of ewe's milk were treated by individual farmers and minor establishments, which refused to state the amount of their production.

Changes from Season to Season in Feeding Cattle.

In this region the daily ration of milch cows, which costs about \$0.50, is usually composed of the following elements: Hay, 17.63 to 26.45 pounds; bran, 13.22 to 22.04 pounds; and copra oil cake, 6.61 to 8.82 pounds. In January and February, when the olive trees are trimmed, the cuttings replace hay to a certain extent, in the proportion of 2 pounds of foliage for 3 pounds of hay. Practical experience has shown that these leaves, which are readily accepted by the cows, tend to increase the yield of milk. Marseille and Aix receive annually about 800 tons. In winter, the outer shell of the almond is occasionally utilized, and is said to communicate to the milk an agreeable flavor. In summer, hay is replaced by 66 to 77 pounds of green fodder.

AMERICAN SHOES FOR ITALIAN LOCAL NEEDS.

[Consul John H. Grout, Milan, Oct. 20.]

The Milan consulate learns that there is an excellent opportunity here for the extension of trade in American shoes. Imports from England and France have almost wholly fallen off, and none are being received from Germany or Austria. Stocks of men's and women's shoes are decreasing. The representative of a Swiss concern visited this district recently, and was almost swamped with orders. Had he confined himself to an endeavor to secure trade by the method pursued by some American firms, that of correspondence alone, his results would probably have been very small.

American firms desiring to enter this market, and to hold it, should send their representatives here at once, prepared to fill orders by cable. Such representatives should carefully canvass the trade and study conditions. Best of all, representatives should be sent over here to remain permanently, and at least establish branch offices, if not open stores.

The Chamber of Commerce of Milan and the American consulate have of late been receiving requests from shoe dealers, asking to be placed in communication with manufacturers in the United States, with a view to purchasing and dealing in American goods. Some of them formerly dealt in foreign goods. By giving attention to this market at once, a reasonably permanent trade can be established. It is reported that some American firms, in various lines, consider that the time to come here is at the close of the war. But those who come here now, and succeed in establishing their goods, will be in a better position to hold what they gain against the keen competition which will surely start up after the war. The great thing to do to-day is to get the goods here; convince the Italian business man that what the United States furnishes is as good or better in quality than the goods he formerly bought; to study his needs, and to treat him in such a way that when the tide does come back, it will find certain lines of American goods firmly entrenched.

EMU PLUMES FROM BRAZIL.

[Consul A. T. Haerberle, Pernambuco, Oct. 16.]

A local firm informs this consulate that it is interested in exporting emu plumes. It believes that it could export 1,000 kilos (2,204.6 pounds) per year, principally from April to October.

The feathers are artificially prepared here to look like aigrettes. The last lot exported to France, when prices were low, sold for 20 francs per kilo (\$1.75 per pound). They are also exported to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The feathers are not assorted and are sold by weight. The small ones are used for making dusters.

It is said that the birds are shot in order to obtain the feathers, but that they are found in large numbers, as they multiply very rapidly. The feathers are long and handsome.

[The consul forwarded samples of the plumes and the name of the firm wishing to export. These are available on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its branches; refer to file 68546.]

STATUS OF LA PLATA AND CAMPANA AS PORTS.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sept. 24.]

Because of questions which had often come up at this consulate general, especially in granting bills of health to vessels destined for the United States or the depositing of papers in this office by American vessels arriving in this country, the Administrator of Customs at Buenos Aires was asked to state whether La Plata was an independent port, or a subport under Buenos Aires, or whether it was to be considered entirely within the port of Buenos Aires and an integral part of it. The same questions were asked in regard to Campana, at which, as in the case of La Plata, considerable quantities of American petroleum are landed.

The Administrator of Customs states that, so far as concerns service in connection with port matters, as distinguished from customs service, La Plata is an integral part of the port of Buenos Aires, and that both are regulated by law No. 8389, under the superintendence of the General Direction of the Ports of Buenos Aires and La Plata, conformably to the decree of October 18, 1912. In the matter of customs service the port of La Plata is entirely independent from that of Buenos Aires and the customhouse there operates separately.

The port of Campana is independent of that of Buenos Aires in its entire mechanism, with the exception of the sanitary control of vessels, etc., which are under the charge of the National Department of Hygiene.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Moddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Fosario, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 3	(a)

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 403 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

PERUVIAN BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR NEXT YEAR.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Oct. 7.]

The Peruvian Government has under consideration several projects for increasing the national revenues, which will probably be given early consideration during the present session of Congress. On October 6 the Minister of Finance submitted to Congress his estimates of the revenues and expenditures of the Government during the year 1916, calculating the total revenues of the Republic at \$13,076,042 and the expenditures at \$13,413,619, showing an apparent deficit of \$337,577.

He estimated the income of the Republic during 1916 from all sources, based on the revenues of 1915, as customs—maritime, \$3,163,225; river, \$262,791; taxes (various), \$3,645,738; Government monopolies, \$3,667,881; Government-owned wharves, \$13,117; divers revenues, \$762,483; telegraph department, \$155,728; postal service, \$433,900; wireless service, \$7,299; tax paid by the Peruvian Corporation (Ltd.), \$58,398; police and judicial fines, \$35,038; warehouse receipts, \$41,365; tax on paper money issued, \$176,167; explosives, \$7,300; school tax from municipalities, \$615,612.

Retrenchment in National Expenditures—New Taxes.

The estimated expenditures of the various branches of the Government for 1916, as set forth by the Minister of Finance, are:

Purpose.	1915	1916	Purpose.	1915	1916
Legislation.....	\$476,633	\$476,633	War and Marine.....	\$3,524,273	\$2,777,706
Government.....	2,320,023	2,417,643	Interior.....	698,991	629,477
Foreign Relations.....	238,153	275,962			
Justice.....	2,339,633	2,286,279	Total.....	14,470,435	13,413,619
Finance.....	4,852,739	4,509,919			

The reduction in the appropriations for the Departments of War, Finance, Interior, and Justice would indicate that the President's program for retrenchment in national expenditures is being put into effect, there being a decrease in the appropriations for 1916, in comparison with the present year, of \$1,056,816.

The apparent deficit of 1916 is to be offset by three new forms of taxation, projects of which have been submitted to Congress: (1) An increase of the fees of Peruvian consular officers from 1 per cent to 2 per cent; (2) an additional surtax of 0.25 centavo per kilo (\$1.22 U. S. gold per metric ton or \$1.10 per short ton), gross weight, imposed at the customhouses of Callao and Mollendo on all importations for national consumption; (3) a tax of 10 per cent ad valorem on certain articles now imported free of duty.

The Montreal correspondent of the Manchester (England) Guardian cabled that, on account of the unusual conditions of exchange prevailing in England, the city of Montreal, Canada, saved about \$40,000 on the semiannual interest charges due November 1. The amount of interest due in Great Britain was £240,652 (\$1,171,133); the saving was the difference between the par exchange at $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and the current rate at about $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. According to the Guardian, this is the first time that such a thing has occurred in the payment of interest by the city.

BETTER FINANCIAL CONDITIONS IN BAHAMAS.

[Consul William F. Doty, Nassau, N. P., Oct. 27.]

Financial conditions have considerably improved since the latter half of 1914. The legal rate of exchange has continued to be £1 sterling, equivalent to \$4.878.

The Bank of Nassau, whose paid-up capital amounts to \$48,780 and whose deposits exceed \$300,000, issues notes fully secured, according to local authorization of denominations of £1 and 4 shillings, respectively. British gold and silver are current also, sufficient for normal requirements. There is a much smaller amount of American gold and silver coins and certificates in use. The American notes, if of the denomination of \$5 and upward, are accepted as American gold. One-dollar notes usually are worth only 4 shillings. American silver half-dollar pieces are equivalent to 2 shillings and the quarter dollar to 1 shilling.

Interest Rates Become Normal—Deposits Increase.

Interest rates have become normal, at present 6 per cent, as compared with 8 per cent about a year ago. The Royal Bank of Canada, Nassau Branch, whose deposits are estimated at about \$500,000, announces a considerable increase in deposits during recent months and that its operations have indicated improving business conditions. Its buying rate for drafts is one-half of 1 per cent, sight drafts; discount, one-half of 1 per cent, 60 days; 1 per cent, 90 days; selling rate, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; collections, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent plus one-fourth of 1 per cent on bills of lading. The selling rate during many months after the commencement of war advanced from three-fourths of 1 per cent to 2 per cent, but more recently has lowered to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The Bank of Nassau has advanced, at 4 per cent interest, whatever funds the Colonial Government has required under the act authorizing a local loan of \$146,340 at 5 per cent interest, repayable in 20 years. A spirit of close economy is evident in legislation and in the domestic life of the inhabitants. Conditions have been hard in some communities on the Out Islands, where a few industries have been at a standstill. Despite the stringency in various quarters, there have been no mercantile failures, although settlement of obligations has frequently been delayed.

TRADE-PROMOTION WORK BY A FRENCH CONSUL.

[Consul Wesley Frost, Cork (Queenstown), Ireland, Oct. 26.]

The French consul at Dublin, Ireland, has recently been spending several days at Cork in the interests of French manufacturers and exporters. The consul, M. Jean L. des Longchamps, "was specially interested in making inquiries for those manufacturers who, owing to the cessation of certain importations, were left without materials which were very requisite for their business, because he is under the impression that all these can now be easily procured from France."

The consul gave his Dublin address to the local newspapers, with the statement that he is most anxious to give any information possible on business matters to Irish manufacturers or those looking for French goods. M. des Longchamps was accompanied during his tour of Cork factories by a representative of the French vice consulate at Cork.

TRANSMITTING PARCELS BETWEEN AMERICA AND RUSSIA.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Oct. 19.]

During the present abnormal war times, with a serious shortage existing in Russia of railway cars, and unusual delays and difficulties attending the usual methods of shipping merchandise, special importance attaches to all conveniences for sending parcels by mail. An immense increase of such business is reported at the Russian post offices, which has somewhat strained their resources.

A helpful feature of parcel-post transmission between the United States and Russia is that such mail matter goes in sealed pouches, which are apparently not opened in transit across Sweden, whereas, if the goods they contained were shipped through Sweden in other ways, they would probably be detained in that country, owing to the great variety of articles on which Sweden has placed an embargo. Individuals or firms mailing articles from the United States to Russia, however, should be careful to send certificates of American origin; otherwise such goods would have to pay double the ordinary rates of duty.

The Russian-American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow has been giving considerable attention to the subject of postal parcels to the United States, and has submitted a memorandum as to its activities in the matter, explaining the present arrangement for sending such parcels via Archangel and Great Britain. A translation of the memorandum is as follows:

At the meeting of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, held on August 24, the question was brought up of the extreme importance of establishing a direct exchange of postal parcels, both with and without statement of value, between the United States and Russia. At the meeting of the governing board of the chamber it was ascertained that for about five or six months after the commencement of hostilities the dispatch of parcels between the United States and Russia was a matter of the greatest uncertainty.

In February, 1915, the Head Administration of Post and Telegraph established the exchange of small postal parcels with the United States via Finland, on condition that the parcels were sent to Petrograd and could be sent only without declaration of value. On April 29, 1915, the Head Administration of the Post and Telegraph limited the parcels to the United States and excluded the dispatch from Russia of gold and silver goods, as well as money, coins, watches, etc. On August 2, 1915, the Head Administration of the Post and Telegraph stopped the acceptance of parcels destined for America via Finland and on August 3, 1915, stopped the exchange of parcels between Russia, England, and France via Archangel. Parcels intended for the United States were held until the receipt of further instructions.

The consequences to exporters and importers in America and Russia were extremely serious and the management of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce determined to ask the Head Administration of the Post and Telegraph to establish immediately an exchange of parcels between Russia and the United States via Archangel and Vladivostok. On October 8, 1915, the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce received a notice from the Head Administration of the Post and Telegraph as follows:

"In reply to the communication of September 24, 1915, the Head Administration of the Post and Telegraph informs the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce that the acceptance of parcels of small weight destined for the United States of America and Canada, temporarily suspended in consequence of the upsetting of the exchange via Sweden, has now been renewed and takes place via Archangel and Great Britain. Instructions to this effect have been given to the executive departments of the post and telegraph."

Several steamers have been chartered by the Australian representatives of British Columbia paper mills to load "news printing paper" for Australian ports.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Hosiery, No. 19328.—An American consular officer in New Zealand reports that a business man in his district desires to act as agent for manufacturers of woolen, silk, and cotton hosiery for women and children. Samples, price lists, discounts, terms, and full information are requested. Cash will be paid against shipping documents at port of delivery.

Machinery, No. 19329.—A report from an American consular officer in Spain states that a company desires to import machinery for sensitizing photographic paper and films. References given. Correspondence may be in English.

Cotton yarns, No. 19330.—A firm in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer that it is desirous of importing cotton yarn, suitable for covering electric bell wire, electric-light flexible cords and cables. Samples of the yarn desired may be examined at the bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 68764.)

Flour, rice, etc., No. 19331.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that a firm of commission merchants wishes to represent exporters of flour, rice, or any other commodity. A credit of 90 days is requested. Correspondence may in Spanish or English.

Carpets and mats, No. 19332.—A firm in Portugal informs an American consular officer that it desires to represent manufacturers of carpets and mats, and that it is in a position to handle a large quantity. Samples of the mats desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 68762.) Correspondence may be in English.

Agricultural implements, No. 19333.—A report from an American consular officer in the United Kingdom states that a firm desires to purchase hoes and other agricultural implements for shipment to India. Catalogues, price lists, and date of delivery are requested. References given.

Cotton waste, No. 19334.—An American consular officer in the East Indies reports that a firm desires samples of cotton waste suitable for motor cleaning. Quotations on a 5-ton lot (11,200 pounds), in bales of 560 pounds, are solicited. Terms to be arranged to suit seller. Correspondence may be in English.

Screens, No. 19335.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a company in England is desirous of being placed in communication with actual manufacturers of barium platino-cyanide fluorescent screens used in connection with X-ray apparatuses. It is stated that a large quantity is wanted.

Kerosene lamp burners, No. 19336.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that a firm in his district is in the market for kerosene lamp burners, flat and round. If prices are satisfactory, the following order will be placed at once: 1,000 flat burners, per sample No. 5; 1,000 round burners, per sample No. 6; 1,000 flat burners, per sample No. 7; 1,000 burners, per sample No. 8; and 1,000 burners, per sample No. 10. Samples may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. Cash will be paid against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in Portuguese.

Oxygen gas cylinders, No. 19337.—A report from an American consular officer in Spain states that a firm is desirous of importing about 400 oxygen gas cylinders, and would like to receive offers from manufacturers of this article. The cylinders preferred contain about 40 cubic decimeters and must have supported a test of 300 atmospheres. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred.

Machinery, No. 19338.—A letter to the Bureau states that a business man in Mexico desires catalogues and full information regarding machines for making pearl, bone, or horn buttons and tin spoons.

Gloves and hosiery, No. 19339.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a company in Chile desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of cotton and mercerized lisle gloves and hosiery. The hosiery is desired for children and the gloves for both women and children. Samples of each may be inspected at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 875.) Note: Sealed letters should bear 5 cents postage.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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SHIPMENT OF TOBACCO TO NETHERLANDS.

[Cablegram from Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague.]

Tobacco may be shipped to Holland without consignment to the Oversea Trust. [For previous notices regarding consignment to the Netherlands Oversea Trust, see COMMERCE REPORTS, Oct. 27, 1915, p. 252.]

AMERICAN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The imports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended November 13, 1915, were as follows: Ore, matte, and regulus (copper contents), 2,883,574 pounds valued at \$315,740; and pigs, ingots, etc., 2,739,439 pounds valued at \$461,477. Cuba and Chile furnished a large percentage of the ore, matte, and regulus, while England, Chile, Spain, Japan, and Canada, in the order named, supplied all the pigs, ingots, etc.

The American exports of pigs, ingots, etc., from the customs districts named during the week amounted to 18,874,973 pounds valued at \$3,690,214. The principal countries of destination were as follows: France, 9,650,928 pounds; Italy, 4,831,591 pounds; England, 1,805,897 pounds; Sweden, 1,459,788 pounds; and Greece, 585,942 pounds.

FISHERMEN ATTRACTED BY BUREAU'S WORK.

The work of the United States Bureau of Fisheries in surveying the black-fish grounds off the coast of North Carolina has attracted some attention to this fishery. In addition to the activities of local fishermen, a small sloop from New Jersey has engaged in this fishery for the winter, and it took 1,100 pounds of fish on its first trip. A local boat took 2,800 pounds the same week.

AMERICAN TRADE IN CEDRATS.

The report from the American consulate at Athens on the trade in cedrats in the Levant, which appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for November 4, 1915, suggests a new industry for the United States. Quantities of these cedrats are imported. They might be grown in Florida and California. The domestic market would probably not be extensive, as the use of cedrats is now confined to one religious denomination, but the industry would be worth while. The chief difficulty is cultural, for the fruit requires most minute attention and must ripen in midsummer (off-season) in time for ceremonial use. However, as the fruit is especially fine for preserving, those ripening at other times could be conserved.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has made an investigation of the cedrat trade in the United States, the following report being from the New York office:

"The question of the importation of cedrats into the United States was taken up with a number of the more prominent Hebrew merchants in New York and persons who were in a position to give the desired information.

"As a result of the interviews with these people, it was ascertained that they agreed that it would be well worth while for American planters to attempt to grow cedrats in the United States. About 50 years ago such an attempt was made to grow cedrats in the United States. The domestic demand for the fruit was very small, and most of the fruit was exported to Germany.

"Under normal conditions a cedrat set retails at \$1.50 to \$2 each. On account of the war there has been a scarcity, and the sets have sold as high as \$7 or \$8. The men interviewed pointed out that if cedrats could be retailed at approximately 50 cents the demand would be enormous, the Hebrew Publishing Co. establishing its estimate as high as 200,000.

"There is a small quantity of cedrats grown in California, but they are not nearly as good as those coming from Greece and do not command as high a price.

"Cedrats have been imported from Palestine and from Greece. Those coming from Greece are said to be better than those from Palestine. It takes a number of years before the plant yields a very high-class fruit, and this is a comparatively new industry with Palestine.

"It was impossible to ascertain the exact figures as to the amount of cedrats imported which remain in New York. Approximately 65 per cent remains in New York and the balance is sent into other cities of the United States."

BRITISH DEMAND FOR GENERAL HARDWARE.

[From report of Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Birmingham, England, Oct. 19.]

Inquiries continue to be received for mechanics' hand tools, galvanized wire, wire rods, dowels, wooden handles, wire nails, screws, nuts, and bolts, washboards, and twine. One firm expresses the general opinion of the majority of firms handling ironmongers' supplies: "As you are no doubt aware, trade is very good in this country. Any quotations you can obtain for us from Canada will be gladly welcomed and considered."

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS OUTLOOK IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 11.]

Business conditions in New Zealand continue excellent, considering the times, and American exporting interests can come after this business with confidence, for the future looks good. Money is easy and the trade balance is decidedly in favor of this country and promises to continue. The New Zealand Trade Review covers the matter clearly in the following:

For the twelvemonth ending with August 31 our exports reached the record total of \$136,531,779, while our imports only totaled \$93,929,499, leaving a handsome surplus of \$42,602,280. In ordinary times such a surplus would mean a supply of money more than the local market could comfortably find suitable investment for. However, conditions are much changed through the war, and it is not easy to raise loans outside the Dominion. The Government is raising a loan of \$9,733,000 locally at 4½ per cent free of income tax, and this, with the usual outside interest obligations to be met, will absorb a fair proportion of the surplus. It appears to us, however, that there will still be an ample supply of funds available for all ordinary business requirements. Mortgage rates are liable to be somewhat firmer, owing partly to the higher standard of rates set by the Government loan, and also to the fact that the provisions of the moratorium act make this class of business a less-favored form of investment than formerly.

American imports are on the increase, but not to the extent that conditions seem to warrant, for the reason that not enough personal work has been done here during the past year.

American exporters should offer their wares to the New Zealander rather than to wait for him to come after them. Such a move would pay in the end, as it has in the past when it has been tried.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argen- tina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(a)
Chamberlain, George A. b.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotos Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

^b Consul George A. Chamberlain, of Lourenco Marques, reports his arrival in the United States and gives his address until Dec. 31, 1915, as the Lotos Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.

JAPAN FURTHERS DYESTUFF ENTERPRISE.

[Extract from Japan Mail of Oct. 15, by Consul General George H. Scidmore. For previous announcement regarding this Japanese dyestuff enterprise see COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 2, 1915.]

Detailed regulations relating to the enforcement of the Japanese Dyestuffs, Medicine, and Chemicals Manufacture Encouragement Law were proclaimed yesterday in the form of an imperial edict and departmental orders.

According to these more than 6,000,000 yen (\$2,988,000) should be the capital in the case of a company which specializes in the manufacture of dyestuffs, and more than 1,200,000 yen (\$597,600) in the case of a company manufacturing glycerine and carbolic acid, the material of explosives. In each case the subsidy from the Government will be granted only to one company. Anyone who desires to organize a subsidized company is requested to apply to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce for permission to establish his projected company. When the capital is paid up, the first general meeting of the shareholders completed, and the new company duly registered in the court, the promoters of the company are entitled to ask for a subsidy.

The Government is bound to subsidize the company so as to enable it to pay a dividend of 8 per cent per annum, making up the deficit if any exists. The company must lay aside one-twentieth of its net profits as a reserve fund. If its shares be issued above par, the balance must be included in the reserve fund. Besides a special reserve fund is to be provided in order that it may become self-supporting as soon as possible. To this fund will go one-half of the excess of the net profits from which 8 per cent per annum dividend has been paid. The rest of the excess may be distributed among the shareholders. The maximum of the dividend out of this source shall not, however, exceed 4 per cent per annum. The residue must be included in the special reserve fund. On the other hand, the conduct of the subsidized company is to be placed under the strict surveillance of the Government.

[Japan Mail, Oct. 16.]

Prompt Planning for Dyestuff Company.

The authorities appear to be very hopeful regarding the dyestuff company promotion, declaring that the company may be organized before the end of the month; that is, before Baron Shibusawa, who is acting as mediator between the Government and the private business men concerned, leaves for the United States. In business circles, however, the whole affair is viewed in a different light, private interests not being at all reconciled to the official plan of rigid control, and therefore reluctant to joint the scheme as promoters. The points of dissent will be submitted to a conference of experts, which will be convened at the Department of Agriculture and Commerce on October 17.

The principal difficulty is the ministerial limitation to protection and the resulting loss to the unprotected manufacturers. Under the official plan a semiofficial plant is to be organized in Kyushu to distill raw material produced by the Government Iron Foundry, and only laboratories are to be organized in Tokyo and Osaka. The mills

already in operation in these cities are thus left outside of the new concern and must meet competition from the powerfully officially protected company. It will not be an easy task to relieve the clash of interest between the protected company and the business community.

AMERICAN TRADE FIGURES FOR LAST WEEK.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending November 20, 1915, at 13 principal customs districts of the United States were:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$10,495	\$200	\$422,027
Massachusetts (Boston).....	3,039,804	247,774	2,018,633
New York.....	17,182,185	3,071,771	65,413,506
Philadelphia.....	1,115,974	186,849	2,123,167
Maryland (Baltimore).....	479,994	49,664	2,031,570
Virginia (No:folk).....	25,958	45,744	1,601,913
New Orleans.....	1,515,493	19,409	2,511,327
Galveston.....	24,396	3,458	3,139,449
San Francisco.....	342,679	52,646	1,673,094
Washington (Seattle).....	3,513,470	37,071	1,799,811
Buffalo.....	90,181	33,784	1,641,923
Chicago.....	491,244	139,645	68,086
Michigan (Detroit).....	750,302	40,786	3,153,285
Total.....	29,412,374	3,927,701	87,997,794

The above figures show a favorable balance on merchandise transactions for the week ending November 20 in the 13 customs districts of \$58,585,420. The 13 districts cited handled about 91 per cent of the import and export business of the country, based on the transactions in September, 1915.

Cotton exported during the week ending November 20 amounted to 98,279 bales, making the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 1,704,223 bales.

AMERICANS HOPE TO EXTEND FILTER-PAPER INDUSTRY.

An interesting problem has arisen from an informal conference at the United States Bureau of Standards. A paper company in this country has become interested in the manufacture of filter paper of the highest grade, the supply of which is being rapidly exhausted. The company sent an expert to the bureau to obtain all possible information relating to the manufacture of such paper.

English paper mills at this time are making a determined effort to get control of the American market, now that the German mills are unable to supply this important grade. The bureau therefore considers that it is an opportune time for starting this new branch of an important industry, and is making every effort to furnish the desired information.

Samples of various makes and grades are being examined, and specifications for both the paper and its performance under given conditions are being determined. The facts obtained will be supplied to any mills attempting to make this grade of paper.

HONGKONG PIECE-GOODS MARKET IMPROVED.

[Consul General George H. Anderson, Hongkong, Oct. 9.]

After a year of waiting and of work to dispose of stocks on hand, Hongkong piece-goods importers have started to buy in comparatively heavy volume for next year's trade, and the closing months of 1915 are likely to show marked activity in purchases, though sales will probably not keep pace with them.

The marked advance in the price of goods in Europe and the general cotton situation as reported here have led to current action, although it has been felt for some time that it was only a matter of a comparatively short time before purchases in considerable volume would be made. For more than a year the market has rested under heavy stocks and small demand. With the opening of the current season the trade found itself with stocks of such size and nature that even good clearances could bring no relief before summer. Clearances so far during the year have not been as large as was anticipated and they are not very satisfactory at the present time, in spite of the fact that a considerable volume of goods is moving at prices for which the goods could not be duplicated at the factories.

Prices in grays and whites still ruling here are far below quotations in Europe and the United States for similar goods. In fancy goods home prices have so far risen as to almost entirely shut off sales here for the time being. Everything considered, however, piece-goods experts in this market consider the situation far better than it has been since the outbreak of the war.

There is also a fair demand for woolens, the first recovery in this market since the year following the Chinese revolution. Prices are now so high that little trade will probably be done for some time, but the tone of the market in such goods is distinctly improved.

The volume of business in cotton yarn has fallen off greatly as a result of the advance in prices. With the present level of prices, the year will close with a dull yarn market.

In the piece-goods market generally there is a much stronger demand for American goods than has existed for years, the impression being that American prices, quality for quality, are much more favorable than they have been heretofore. American manufacturers also seem more disposed to meet special demands of the market in a way to invite business. It is noted in local piece-goods circles that British piece-goods representatives are not so closely in touch with the market as they have been, hardly a single Manchester or Bradford traveler having visited this port for months.

EUROPEAN LINE BY JAPANESE COMPANY.

[Extract from Japan Times of Oct. 20, by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]
New Osaka Shosen Kaisha Service.

It is reported that in view of the prosperity of trade on the European line the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has decided to open a service on the line side by side with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, having already ordered four vessels of 12,000 tons each from the Osaka Iron Works. One of these ships will be completed by the end of next year, while the other three will be begun in the early part of next year, a fleet of European vessels being thus completed by the first half of 1917. When the scheme is realized the company's affairs in London will be taken charge of by Samuel & Samuel.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS IN CANADA.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Nov. 9.]

Evidence of greatly improved industrial and commercial conditions in Canada is steadily accumulating, the splendid agricultural crops being largely responsible. In some instances they are more than double those of the previous year.

Every able-bodied man should have full employment during the coming winter. The employment of women in factories is also likely to be larger than usual, and for the immediate future at least the financial situation of the Canadian people is much better than at the close of 1914.

The railway earnings show striking gains. During October the three big Canadian railway systems reported earnings amounting to \$21,656,191, an increase of 34.2 per cent over October, 1914; during each of the previous six months of 1915 decreases resulted from railway operations as compared with the corresponding months of 1914.

Canadian bank clearings for the week ending October 28, 1915, amounted to \$192,516,066, an increase of \$33,776,375 compared with the similar week last year.

The Dominion revenue for October amounted to \$14,440,333 as against \$10,641,254 in the corresponding month last year. For the seven months from April 1 to October 31 the revenue was \$87,683,848, or nearly \$7,000,000 greater than in the like period of the calendar year 1914. The ordinary expenditures during this seven-months period amounted to \$56,347,603, or about \$9,000,000 less than for the like period of the previous year. The extraordinary and capital account expenditures during these seven months were \$74,013,915, of which total \$53,359,158 were outlays occasioned by the war.

The net debt of Canada on October 31, 1915, amounted to \$492,528,492, an increase of \$139,853,093 as compared with the October 31, 1914, statement.

It has been officially announced that a Domestic Dominion loan of probably \$50,000,000 will be offered for popular subscription about the end of the present month.

ALCOHOL STOVES IN CANADA.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul at Ottawa, Nov. 9.]

A noteworthy feature of drug-store and hardware-store window displays in Ottawa has been the prominence given to alcohol stoves of American manufacture. Many of the stoves exhibited are small and are designed to use solidified alcohol. Larger stoves with grates and having considerable utility value are also carried in stock and displayed.

The German-made alcohol stove, due to its quality and cheapness in price, was a strong competitor in this market previous to the war. By way of comparison, an American liquid alcohol stove with one grate sells at about \$5, while a similar stove of German make formerly sold at about \$3. Considering the large number of these stoves displayed it would seem that there should be ample inducement to American manufacturers to make a determined effort to maintain their products in this market, even when competition again becomes greater.

CANADIAN SUBSIDIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

[Consul General R. E. Mansfield, Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 30.]

In 1913 the Federal Government appropriated \$500,000 to be divided among the various Provinces in the Dominion, on the basis of population, to supplement their own expenditures for agricultural purposes. British Columbia's grant was \$47,335. Pending the establishment of an agricultural college, the appropriation was used for the following purposes:

Women's institutes	\$2, 500
Farmers' institutes	5, 000
Demonstrations in crops and poultry	7, 500
Demonstrations in dairying	5, 000
Demonstrations in horticulture	2, 500
Cow testing	2, 500
Instructors in agriculture	7, 500
School gardens	1, 000
Demonstrations in field work	2, 500
Live-stock judging	1, 000
Fruit-packing schools	1, 000
Bulletins	2, 500
Miscellaneous	4, 335

These services are a considerable and useful addition to the activities which the Province conducts with its own funds.

ARBORICULTURE IN PERSIA.

[Vice Consul Ralph H. Bader, Teheran, Aug. 14.]

Except in the Provinces bordering the Caspian Sea and in Kurdistan, where there is sufficient rainfall, there are no natural forests in Persia. On account of the lack of transportation facilities, all the timber consumed in the great plain of Iran is grown locally by irrigation. The trees that one learns to associate with every Persian landscape are the poplar and the plane tree, which the Persians call the Chenar. The plane tree requires very little water, grows quickly, and attains to an immense size and great age. The natural form of plane trees is spreading, but the Persians plant them in dense rows, and by lopping off the branches when young and by constant thinning these trees grow to a great height.

The area of a cultivated wood is generally not large, the usual size being 3 to 6 acres. The plane tree and the poplar serve for building purposes in Persia, as does the pine in the United States. Great groves of walnut are also grown in the north of Persia, the nuts being used for food. So scarce and costly is wood in Persia that even branches and the trees that are removed from the groves when the size of a man's finger are carefully collected and transported to the towns to be used for firewood and for other purposes.

CONSULAR TRADE EFFORTS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

[Consul George E. Chamberlain, Georgetown, Oct. 1.]

As a result of the efforts of this consulate during the past quarter 10 American agencies have been placed in this district, also an American equipment for a first-class 3-chair barber shop. The new agencies include the following lines: Cotton piece goods, collars, neckwear, ladies' underwear, gents' underwear, bags and trunks, leaf tobacco, and general imports.

IMPROVED COPRA CURING IN PHILIPPINES.

[Manila Daily Bulletin, Oct. 7.]

Bureau of Agriculture officials at Manila have returned from inspecting a modern copra drying plant recently constructed in the center of a big coconut district near Magdalena, Laguna Province. This plant cost about \$10,000, according to the statement of the proprietor, and is probably the most modern plant in the Philippines. The building has concrete floors and walls and an iron roof, and is practically fireproof. The drying plant consists of a row of 36 connected ovens, each with a capacity of six big trays of coconuts. The capacity of the plant is estimated at 150 piculs (20,000 pounds) of copra every 24 hours. The copra is dried by hot air from a furnace which is fed by coconut husks. This hot air is forced through the ovens by a big revolving fan, which is run by an oil engine. The floor of the ovens is of sand, which helps to hold the heat. Big perforated pipes extend at the top from oven to oven, thus equalizing the distribution of the hot air. An excellent quality of white copra is produced. The factory has only been in operation a short time, and none of the copra has been marketed, but it is of such excellent quality that it is sure to command a fancy price.

PRESENTS SURVEY OF PERUVIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Sept. 30.]

An interesting pamphlet has been issued by the minister of Fomento containing detailed statistics and a general survey of the sugar industry in Peru during 1914.

As regards the production of sugar, raw and refined, the quantity increased from 183,954 metric tons in 1913 to 228,055 tons in 1914, a difference of 44,100 tons (metric ton=2,204.62 pounds). The area of cane under cultivation was 100,640 acres. The number of laborers employed in the industry is given as 21,881. The consumption of sugar in the Republic during 1914 is estimated at 33,072 metric tons. The exportation of sugar in 1914 amounted to 176,670 metric tons, or an increase of 32,769 tons over the preceding year.

The pamphlet contains also facts about the production and consumption of alcohol and furnishes a complete list of the sugar plantations of the Republic.

[A copy of the publication will be loaned to interested persons who apply to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68325.]

RECORD YEAR FOR SWEDISH STATE TELEGRAPHS.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Oct. 20.]

According to an estimate of the Director of the Swedish State Telegraphs the present year will be a record one as concerns the number of messages sent and the increase in the income connected therewith. It is calculated that the receipts in 1915 will amount to \$2,432,000 contrasted with \$2,160,000 in 1914. The increase in the income of the telephone service this year over 1914 will amount to \$830,000.

ONTARIO HOTELS MAY HAVE ROPE FIRE ESCAPES.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul, Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 10.]

The Revised Statutes of Ontario, dealing with the prevention of accidents by fire in hotels and other similar buildings, provide for rope fire escapes. The law says:

The keeper of every hotel shall provide and keep in each of the sleeping apartments or bedrooms which are above the ground floor, a fire escape for the use of guests occupying the same.

Such fire escape shall be sufficient within the meaning of this act if it consists of a rope not less than three-quarters of an inch in thickness, and of sufficient length to reach from the room or apartment in which it is kept to the ground below, and is kept in a coil or other convenient position in each of said bedrooms or sleeping apartments; and if the outside window or opening of such sleeping apartment or bedroom is provided with proper, secure, and convenient fastenings or appliances to which one end of the rope may be safely secured or fastened; provided that the provisions of this subsection shall be deemed to be sufficiently complied with by the substitution for the rope therein mentioned, with the approval of the inspector, of the fire escape known as the "natural-drop fire escape," consisting of a cylindrical casing made of canvas or any other suitable material, and provided at the top with a metal ring supported by chains from the window, the lower portion of the casing extending into proximity with the ground.

In case any hotel is provided with outside stationary or other fire escapes, differing from what is herein provided for, by means of which, in the opinion of the inspector of the license district in which any such hotel is situated, a reasonable, safe, and convenient means of egress from the sleeping apartments or bedrooms is provided in case of fire, the same shall be deemed a compliance with this act, so far as relates to all sleeping apartments or bedrooms from the outside windows or openings of which there is access to the said fire escapes.

The rope fire escapes observed have a substantial ring fastened to the window casing, a rope being securely fastened to the ring and neatly coiled and hung on the wall by the side of the window. The equipment is quite inexpensive and not unsightly.

PLANS TO HANDLE LUMBER TRAFFIC OF NORTHWEST.

[Commercial Agent W. B. Henderson, Seattle, Wash.]

Plans to handle the heavy traffic from the lumber belt of the Olympic Peninsula have been made in connection with the completion, a few days ago, of the track of the Seattle, Puget Sound & Western Railway to a connection with the Port Townsend & Puget Sound Railway. Both roads are subsidiaries of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, and in the taking over of the Puget Sound railroad all trestles have been filled and the roadbed has been placed in condition to handle the lumber shipments.

The company is constructing a three-track line from the slip at Port Townsend, and a barge service to Seattle, which will be operated from Portage to Seattle. Another line which adds considerably to the transportation facilities at the head of the Puget Sound section has been finished by the laying of tracks on $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles right of way of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Co.'s line from Plum Station to Olympia, thus giving to that city two transcontinental lines for the first time in its history. The new line will connect with the Northern Pacific at Point Defiance, near Tacoma.

SANTO DOMINGO'S EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul Robert K. Williams, Santo Domingo, Oct. 2.]

The total value of the declared exports from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to the United States and Porto Rico for the quarter ended September 30, 1915, shows a marked decrease, when compared with the corresponding quarter of 1914. During the 1914 quarter there was one month which was not affected by the war. At present there are no exports to Europe, such as formerly went via the United States, and there has been a great falling off in grand totals. There are no cases of "optional reshipment to Europe," by way of the United States, as in the corresponding quarter of 1914.

During the September quarter of 1914, \$95,284 worth of sugar was shipped from this port to the United States, of which \$14,957 was billed "optional reshipment to Europe," while in the quarter just ended not a single shipment of sugar is reported, for the reason that the market was better earlier in the calendar year, the sugar producers were able to sell their product to a much better advantage, and they did not have to hold it for an advance in the market as they did last year. If, therefore, the amount of sugar is deducted from the total, the exports of the September, 1914, quarter to the United States and Porto Rico fall very much below the exports of the corresponding quarter in this year.

Cacao shows an increase this year, coffee a falling off, and hides and skins an increase. The sugar men declare the war has been to their advantage, enabling them to sell for a better price than if they had to meet the competition of the European sugar-beet producers. Products which were formerly shipped to Europe are now going to the United States and Porto Rico, and in return the Dominicans are purchasing more from the United States than they did prior to the war.

The exports to the United States from Santo Domingo for the September quarter amounted to \$63,508, compared with \$126,860 for the corresponding quarter in 1914. Shipments of cacao were valued at \$31,426, compared with \$22,078; coffee, \$3,303, compared with \$12,498; goatskins, \$5,591, compared with \$2,738; hides, 11,114, compared with \$6,653; and wax, \$10,358, compared with \$5,518.

AMERICAN SOAP FOR THE AZORES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, St. Michaels, Oct. 30.]

Inquiries have been received at this consulate regarding American soaps. An article comparing favorably with an English product known as "Sunlight Soap," seems to be in demand. About \$75,000 worth of soaps, including the toilet variety, are imported by the Azores annually. Samples of the most popular local brands will be sent to American firms interested in the market. Such firms are invited also to submit samples of their products for the commercial exhibit of the St. Michael's consulate. Only cheap and moderate-priced articles should be sent, as the market can not absorb others. A cold-water laundry soap, it is suggested, would have a good sale, as clothes are not boiled by a majority in the washing process.

All samples should be sent through the mails, divided in small parcels and plainly marked with the word "samples," and addressed "American Consulate, St. Michael's, Azores."

SIAM'S FRONTIER TRADE WITH BURMA.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Sept. 10.]

Siam's frontier trade with Burma has received considerable attention lately, owing to the extension of the Siamese northern railway, which is now under construction. In about two years the road will reach Chiangmai, the northern capital of Siam, and with its completion much of the Siam-Burma transfrontier trade will be diverted to this new route.

The caravan trade routes pass in two distinct directions, one between Burma and northern Siam and the other between Burma and southern Siam, but figures are given for the combined trade of both of these routes. The present method of transportation is by Shan ponies and pack mules.

According to an official statement recently issued by the Burmese Government the overland trade between Siam and Burma for 1914-15 amounted to a total of \$3,380,077 gold, against \$3,257,090 for the previous year.

Increases Shown in Import and Export Trade.

The value of the imports from Burma to Siam for 1914-15 was \$1,432,175, while the exports from Siam to Burma totaled \$1,947,902, as compared with \$1,398,273 imports and \$1,859,517 exports for the preceding year.

The values of the principal imports from Burma were: Cotton yarn and piece goods, \$270,351; wearing apparel, \$60,989; silk piece goods, \$42,878; metals and manufactures of, \$36,431. The biggest import item consisted of 2,607,976 silver rupees, but of these, however, 1,661,681 (\$539,101) were reexported to Burma. The rupee, the standard silver coin of Burma, has a large circulation in northern Siam, because the Burmese teak-timber contractors in Siam receive their pay in this currency, which they subsequently return to their own country.

The chief frontier exports from Siam to Burma during 1914-15 consisted of 572,655 cubic feet of teak timber, valued at \$362,401, which was floated to Burmese ports by way of the Salween River; 17,556 head of cattle, \$295,254; 246 elephants, \$397,022; native drugs, \$1,460; jewelry and precious stones, \$2,657; silk piece goods, \$91,147; and native tobacco, \$6,353. The 246 elephants imported from Siam were for use in teak-timber extraction from the Burmese forests.

Cultivation of Rice One of Chief Industries.

The population of northern Siam numbers about 2,500,000, and cultivation of rice, which is their staple food, is one of the chief industries, but as a rule only sufficient rice is grown for local consumption, and there is no surplus for export.

The most important industry in this district is teak logging, but for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, the teak logs which passed the duty station at Paknampoh numbered only 58,888, while the yearly average number of logs floated by river to this station is about 100,000, and besides these about 20,000 logs pass yearly by the River Salween to Moulmein, Burma.

Pebble manufacture is a new industry in Nevada. Foreign pebbles for grinding cement, etc., imported into the United States in 1914 had a value of \$479,146.

POTASH FROM THE SEAWEED OF THE SARAGOSSA.

[Commercial Agent Thomas H. Norton.]

The current shortage of potash compounds has assumed most serious dimensions. The ordinary commercial chloride of potash (80 per cent muriate of potash) is now quoted at \$600 per ton. The rate in July, 1914, was \$38.

Attention has been directed to the possibility of exploiting deposits of seaweed which are present in such abundance in the so-called Saragossa Sea of the Central Atlantic. Vast amounts of this seaweed are thrown upon the coasts of the Bahamas. In one harbor, the accumulations of hundreds of thousands of tons render at times navigation almost impossible.

The dried kelp obtained from this seaweed contains on an average 9 per cent of potash. In a recent communication by Consul W. F. Doty, of Nassau, it is suggested that efforts should be made on a large scale to exploit this source of potash. Concessions might be obtained for operations on the Bahama Islands, or the work could be carried on directly in the Atlantic.

Although this source of potash-bearing material lies so near to the seaports of the Southern Atlantic States, where such large amounts of potash are currently required as fertilizer, it would appear doubtful whether the proposition offers any advantage over the utilization of the kelp on our Pacific littoral.

Kelp from Pacific Coast Contains More Potash.

As shown in the recent report issued by this Bureau on "Potash production in California and potash from kelp," the dried kelp from the Pacific coast contains 18.9 per cent of potash. The nitrogen content is also far higher than that of the seaweed in the waters of the Atlantic.

The desirability of securing potash at any price whatever is now so marked that it might possibly be well to consider the question of undertaking an exploitation of the Saragossa weed.

Full data concerning this seaweed can be obtained from the Marine Biological Bureau of the Carnegie Institute at Washington. A prominent fertilizer company in Georgia has also instituted investigations in this connection and it plans to send an expedition to the Bahamas for further exploration.

In the meantime the efforts to perfect and expand the production of potash from the kelp of the California coast are being advanced on a scale of increasing importance. There is but little doubt that, in harmony with the suggestions contained in the recent studies on this subject published in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, the California production will be enormously augmented in the early future. There is great hope that it may prove of the most pronounced value in relieving the potash famine at present so much felt in the tobacco and cotton fields of the South.

[A more extended discussion of potash production in California, by Commercial Agent Norton, of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 12, 1915.]

"Silver Fox Farming," just issued, discusses sites, methods of breeding, costs and profits; for sale at 5 cents by Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Oct. 21.]

Good Bank Conditions.

The Sydney banks indicate a substantial increase in deposits. The September, or winter quarter, just closed, is not a period when deposits usually grow, but it indicates increased deposits over the June quarter of \$8,726,528, and for the year \$35,038,800. Many people have let their deposits accumulate in preference to investing them either in securities or property, and the recent Commonwealth loan has not perceptibly checked the accumulations.

Exhibition of British Manufactures.

The Sydney Chamber of Commerce has decided to hold another Trade Fair similar to the recent one, at which were exhibited Australian and British manufactured goods. At present 64 firms have signified their desire to exhibit. The tendency will be to encourage the sale of goods manufactured in the British Dominions.

Higher Duty Wanted on Rubber Goods.

Sydney papers report that a delegation representing the rubber-workers' union waited upon the Australian minister for customs and requested that a duty of 100 per cent be placed on imported rubber goods. The president of the union said they did not fear British competition but deprecated the present trend of trade toward America. He stated that the imports from the United Kingdom in 1907 were \$661,844, or 58 per cent of the imports, and in 1913 \$1,182,559, or 40 per cent of the imports, but at present the bulk of the rubber imports were from the United States. Recently American manufacturers have taken substantial orders for automobile tires in Australia and New Zealand.

Demonstrating Machinery.

A man interested in the Colonial Sugar Co. of Australia told me to-day that American manufacturers of cane-cutting machinery were sending moving-picture films here to demonstrate the working of cane-cutting machines which they wish to sell. The enterprise of the American manufacturers is highly appreciated.

Drought Affects Sugar-cane Growing.

Sydney newspapers say that the drought in the sugar-growing districts of northern Australia continues unabated; in two of the leading districts there has been no rain during the last month. Where irrigation was not available there has been no planting, though in irrigated areas some fine crops can be seen. Kalamia Mill has now finished crushing; the tonnage of cane being 17,000 as against 72,000 last year. In another district 20 points of rain is said to have fallen during the month of September. The total to the end of September this year was 21 inches, as against 58½ inches to the end of the month of September, 1914.

Japanese Ship Subsidy.

A news item published this morning from Melbourne says the Japanese Government has notified the Department of External Affairs that the following are the Australian subsidies under the navigation contracts for the next four years: 1916, \$86,332; 1917, \$79,616; 1918, \$84,190; 1919, \$93,631.

TRADE EXPANSION AND INTELLIGENCE BUREAU.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Australia, Oct. 1.]

A meeting called by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne to consider the formation of a Trade Expansion and Intelligence Bureau, which has been advocated by Melbourne's evening paper, was held at the Town Hall on September 15 and attended by about 200 of the leading merchants and manufacturers of the city. The following resolution was adopted:

That with a view to increasing Australian production and manufacture, increasing our over-sea trade, and finding new markets at home and abroad, a Trade Expansion and Intelligence Bureau be established, and that a committee be appointed from this meeting to form a constitution and devise ways and means of carrying out the object in view.

Considerable diversity of opinion was expressed at the meeting as to the scope and usefulness of such a bureau. If it were to be purely of a local character, it was considered by many speakers that its functions could be as well performed by the existing Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Manufacturers. On the other hand, the promoters of the enterprise voiced the desire and intention of inviting the cooperation of the other States of the Commonwealth, and undertook to communicate with the mayors of other Australian cities with a view to the formation of similar bureaus in those cities which would be associated with that of Melbourne. It was also hoped that recognition and practical support might be received from the Federal and State Governments.

Tentative Plan of Organization.

A committee of 24 was appointed by the lord mayor to put into effect the provisions of the resolution. This committee has had several meetings, but has not as yet perfected plans of organization. The general propositions, however, are:

That a trade expansion and intelligence bureau be established in a convenient and central position in the city.

That importers, exporters, manufacturers, and any person engaged in the production or distribution (wholesale or retail) of commodities be eligible for membership.

That a register of trade opportunities offering in Australia and abroad be opened at the Bureau, with the most up-to-date information available as to markets, shipping facilities, agencies, etc.

That the register be free for inspection by members, and that, in addition, facts of special importance be circulated among members in the form of bulletins.

That communication be opened with trade organizations at home and abroad for the exchange of reports and cooperative effort for mutual advantage.

In the general propaganda made by the Melbourne newspaper, which originated the plan, frequent references have been made to the excellent organization of the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and the very valuable aid given by it to American manufacturers in the practical promotion of the sale of their goods in foreign countries.

Correction.

In the table on page 2 of Supplement to COMMERCE REPORTS No. 50a (British India), published on November 15, 1915, the value of the exports from Calcutta to the United States in 1913-14 should read \$60,121,714 instead of \$80,121,714.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Paper, shoe laces, hosiery, etc., No. 19340.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a man in the United States desires samples and prices on the following articles for firms in Uruguay: Boot and shoe laces; waste, and toilet paper; toilet soaps; face powder; drugs and chemicals of all kinds; feather and fiber dusters; shoe creams; rubber heels; wooden toothpicks; silk, cotton, and lisle hose; etc.

Automobiles and accessories, etc., No. 19341.—A letter to the Bureau states that a man in Norway desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of automobiles and accessories, electrical materials, and machinery for manufacturing pneumatic automobile and cycle tires and tubes, and tin cans for "brisling."

Chemical products, No. 19342.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a commission merchant desires to purchase large quantities of chemicals, such as chloride of lime, chloride of calcium, and acetone. Bank reference given. Correspondence may be in English.

Woolen cloth, paper, furniture, etc., No. 19343.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a man in Chile wishes to represent American exporters of woolen cloth for men's clothing, all kinds of shirtings, cheap grades of stockings and socks, furniture of every description, all kinds of paper, cheap jewelry, combs, etc. Bank and commercial references furnished.

Sweaters, No. 19344.—A report from an American consular officer in England states that a firm in his district wishes to import cotton or woolen sweaters, in all colors, for women and children, for shipment to South Africa. Price f. o. b. American port, but not to exceed \$7.50 per dozen. Bank references furnished.

Beef, vegetables, condensed milk, etc., No. 19345.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm would like to be placed in communication with exporters of salted beef (not frozen), corned and preserved beef, salted vegetables, condensed milk in tins and barrels, turpentine, powdered starch, macaroni and vermicelli, edible oils, etc. It is stated that these articles are to be exported to Sweden and the Netherlands.

Newspapers, window glass, soap, etc., No. 19346.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a man in India desires to purchase the following goods: Newspapers packed in 5 hundredweights per bale, window glass, soap, caustic soda, and tartaric acid.

Motorcycles and automobile accessories, No. 19347.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm in Norway would like to communicate with manufacturers of motorcycles and automobile accessories, such as headlights, lamps, horns, air cocks, priming cups, and lubricators, etc.

Combs, underwear, hosiery, etc., No. 19348.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a man in Ireland desires to be placed in communication with firms manufacturing combs, underwear, and hosiery for women and children, corset laces, boot and shoe ornaments, cheap buttons, and gloves for women and children.

Chemical products, No. 19349.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a man in his district desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of chemicals, such as chloride of lime and chloride of calcium. References given. Correspondence may be in English.

Lard, bacon, tobacco, etc., No. 19350.—A report from an American consular officer in the Canary Islands states that a man would like to establish commercial relations with manufacturers or exporters of lard; bacon; tobacco (Kentucky preferred); boots and shoes for men, women, and children; cotton and worsted hosiery; felt hats; and confectionery. Correspondence in Spanish is desired.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 277 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 26 1915

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THE SWISS IMPORT TRUST.

[Cablegram from the American consulate general, London.]

The Foreign Office announces that the Swiss import trust, called Societe Suisse de Surveillance Economique, commenced operations November 16 as the only authorized consignee in Switzerland of shipments from allied countries of contraband and embargoed articles.

MARKET FOR TOMATO SAUCE IN NORWAY.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Oct. 14.]

Inquiries have recently been received concerning American tomato sauce suitable for packing fish. As stated in a recent report [published in COMMERCE REPORTS for October 8], Italian tomato sauce has been used almost exclusively in the past by the Norwegian fish factories. Since Italy's entrance into the war, however, there has been considerable speculation as to the continuance of adequate supplies from that source, and very recently it has become apparent that some part of the supplies will have to be imported from other countries. The Italian tomato crop of the last season was not large, as the Italian Government had much of the tomato land planted to corn, and in addition the yield per acre was below normal.

Prices of tomato sauce have risen to as high as 75 shillings per 100 kilos (\$8.30 per 100 pounds), delivered at Stavanger. This is from 50 to 100 per cent higher than the prices prevailing before the war.

Six of the local commission agents are anxious to receive samples and quotations from American firms. One of these agents states that samples of American sauce received during the last month were too thin. This particular importer wants the "double concentrated" sauce if possible.

[The names of the six agents may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branches. Refer to file No. 68188.]

BIDS FOR SURVEY STEAMERS.

Sealed proposals will be received by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, until December 30, 1915, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purchase of the Coast and Geodetic Survey steamers *Gedney* and *McArthur*. These vessels are now at Seattle, Wash., where prospective bidders may inspect them at any time. The exact location of the vessels can be had on application to the inspector, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, 202 Burke Building, Seattle, Wash.,

Each bid for each vessel must be accompanied by a certified check in the sum of \$250, payable to the order of the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The checks of unsuccessful bidders will be returned immediately after the acceptance of the proposal of the successful bidder, but the check of the successful bidder will be retained as a guarantee for the liquidated damages that would be incurred by the Government should the successful bidder default in making the payments in accordance with his proposal, and in view of the difficulty in estimating such damages with exactness they are hereby fixed, estimated, and computed at \$250. If no default be made, the amount of the check, \$250, will be credited to the purchaser as a first payment on the vessel.

Full payment for the vessel must be made within 30 days after the acceptance of the proposal, and it is to be distinctly understood that no title, right to possession, nor any property right whatever shall pass to or be vested in the purchaser until the full amount of the purchase price, as stated in the accepted proposal, has been paid to the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

It is also understood that bidders in submitting proposals, even though it is not specifically stated, agree to all of the conditions, provisions, and stipulations, as stated in this letter of invitation.

Descriptions of the *Gedney* and *McArthur* can be had on application to the Washington office or to the offices of the Coast and Geodetic Survey at Seattle or San Francisco.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 3	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

CHARTING OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER COMPLETED.

On the eastern shore of Bering Sea, from Nunivak Island to Nushagak, stretches what is perhaps Alaska's most unfrequented coast line, touched by waters leading into an even less-frequented river. For the past five seasons, a steamer of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has been engaged on the field work connected with the charting of the approach and entrance to the Kuskokwim River, a work completed during the past season by the steamer *Yukon*. As a supplement to the coast work, a reconnaissance survey was made inland from Bethel, the head of deep-sea navigation. This was carried for 550 miles to McGrath, the main settlement on the upper river. A steamer afforded the means of taking astronomical instruments up the river and the fair weather afforded opportunity for the determination of positions along the river's course. As some previous positions were found as much as 50 miles in error, a new map of the river will fill an urgent need in future developments in this region.

Second only to the Yukon in size, the Kuskokwim is visited yearly by but two or three small steamers, which ascend as far as Bethel; but the recent publication of charts has made it possible safely and confidently to navigate the channel through the vast area of mud flats which lie off the river's mouth, a feat formerly extremely hazardous and requiring sometimes weeks to accomplish. The comparison of present with previous freight rates tells the story of putting the Kuskokwim on the commercial map.

[Previous articles on the Kuskokwim River work were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for March 27, April 7, and April 23, 1915.]

WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF RAW SILK.

[L'Économiste Européen, Oct. 29.]

The world's production of raw silk in 1914 is estimated at 21,870 metric tons, as compared with 27,720 tons in 1913. The following table shows the raw-silk production of different sections of the world in five-year averages from 1871 to 1910 and for the years 1911 to 1914:

Years.	Europe.	Levant.	Extreme Orient.	Total.
	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>
1871-1875	3,676	678	5,194	9,546
1876-1880	2,475	639	5,740	8,854
1881-1885	3,630	700	5,108	9,438
1886-1890	4,340	738	6,522	11,600
1891-1895	5,518	1,107	8,670	15,295
1896-1900	5,220	1,552	10,281	17,053
1901-1905	5,312	2,304	11,476	19,092
1906-1910	5,460	2,815	14,908	23,183
1911	4,330	2,960	17,280	24,570
1912	4,982	2,233	19,700	26,915
1913	4,245	2,315	20,760	27,320
1914	4,860	1,555	15,455	21,870

These totals do not include silk both produced and manufactured in the countries of the extreme Orient.

A \$250,000 palatial hotel, now building at Victoria Falls, in Africa, is to be opened next year, being leased to the Rhodesia Railways (Ltd.).

COST OF PRODUCTION OF MUSLIN UNDERWEAR.

The manufacture of women's muslin underwear in the United States has reached a total annual production of \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000, with an aggregate investment of \$15,000,000, and the industry has practically no foreign competition. The successive stages in the making and marketing of this class of clothing are explained in a report just issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce on the cost of production of women's muslin underwear.

Field agents of the Bureau obtained the information that has been collected from 65 establishments located in nine States. Some of the plants were large and some small, but all are declared to have been fairly representative of the industry. Their aggregate sales during their last business period, usually one year, amounted to \$14,619,518, so that a good proportion of the total output was represented. The work was begun in January, 1914, and the Bureau was aided by the owners of the plants selected, as well as by the association known as the Cotton Garment Manufacturers of New York, the manager of which sent to all its members a circular letter expressing his approval of the Bureau's plans and urging their cooperation.

An important fact which is brought out in the report now published is that a manufacturer can do business on very little capital and that many factories which started with very small capital have developed into large enterprises. The net sales of the establishments visited ranged from less than \$30,000 to more than \$1,000,000 during the last business periods. The total net sales of 43 concerns in New York City were \$9,331,662, an average of \$217,015 per establishment; the total net sales of 22 concerns elsewhere were \$5,287,856, an average of \$240,357 per establishment. It is estimated that the entire number of establishments in this industry in 1913 was 400, and more than one-half were located in New York City. Other States from which reports were received are Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

The bureau finds that practically all of the women's muslin underwear made in this country is trimmed more or less with lace and embroidery, and the average cost of the trimming is about 55 per cent of the total cost of the materials used. The present rate of duty on women's muslin underwear made of cotton and trimmed with lace or embroidery is 60 per cent ad valorem, which is the highest ad valorem rate of duty in the cotton schedule, and which differs but slightly from the rates under the tariff act of 1909. The same rate of duty is placed upon all cotton laces and embroideries. Manufacturers estimate that of the trimmings used in the making of muslin underwear from 25 to 40 per cent of the lace and from 5 to 15 per cent of the embroidery are of domestic manufacture. During recent years there has been a great increase in the quantity and improvement in the quality of both the lace and the embroidery made in the United States.

The capital employed in business at the beginning of the year by the 65 establishments from which reports were received amounted to \$4,150,357, or an average per establishment of \$63,852. Of the 65 establishments, 59 earned profits and 6 had losses on their year's business. Thirty-four earned a manufacturing profit of more than 20 per cent on the capital employed in the business, one concern earn-

ing fully 100 per cent. The average manufacturing profit of all the companies on the capital employed in the business was 21.01 per cent.

The average manufacturing profit of all the establishments on the net sales was 6.78 per cent. Eleven of the concerns earned a manufacturing profit of more than 10 per cent and 37 a manufacturing profit of more than 5 per cent on net sales; the highest being 15.24 per cent. The great difference between the profit based on capital and that based on net sales is due to the fact that in this industry there is an average annual turnover of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ times the capital employed.

This publication, Miscellaneous Series No. 29, is the first of a series of reports on the cost of production in the clothing industry to be issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The other reports which will follow relate to hosiery, knit underwear, shirts and collars, and men's ready-made clothing. A report on pottery has already been issued, and reports on the cost of production of textile machinery and cane sugar are in course of preparation. Copies of the report described may be procured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the branch offices of the Bureau, at 20 cents each.

JAPANESE GOLD HOLDINGS STEADILY INCREASE.

[Extract from Japan Times, Oct. 21, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha liner *Kamakura Maru*, which arrived at Kobe yesterday from London, has brought £250,000 sterling (\$1,216,625) from India, to the account of the Bank of Japan. This is the second shipment of gold from India, and will be closely followed by others.

Gold holdings of the country have steadily increased, and, according to the estimate taken on the 15th instant, the hoards kept abroad amount to 313,000,000 yen (\$155,874,000) and the metal kept at home to \$56,274,000. The whole amount, it is estimated, will attain \$263,940,000 by the end of the present year, as Japan is entitled to a big payment for exports to her credit for the latter months of the year, while her liabilities to be paid in the same period are valued at \$2,689,200 for November and at \$2,091,600 for December, as interest on Government bonds.

The prime cause for this inflation of Japan's gold holdings may be found in the steady expansion in the export trade, but there are also other important causes contributing greatly to the accumulation of hoards. The receipts of shipping companies, for instance, have greatly increased lately on account of the unheard-of prosperity. According to the latest reliable investigations, the net takings of Japanese shipping companies for the past half year are estimated at \$49,800,000 in round figures, of which something like \$24,900,000 is due from overseas. Another factor which is by no means negligible is remittances from Japanese abroad, estimated at considerably more than \$9,960,000 already this year.

Even if all obligations are duly paid, Japan can get at least 150,000,000 yen (\$74,700,000) more of gold by the end of the present year, and easily pay off all loans maturing in the near future out of the gold accumulated, without suffering the least on that account.

REPORT ON AMERICAN COTTON INDUSTRY.

A bulletin soon to be issued by the United States Bureau of the Census will show, for the American crop of 1914, a production of 15,905,840 running bales of cotton, counting round as half bales (equivalent to 16,134,930 bales of 500 pounds each, gross weight), worth \$591,130,000, and of 7,186,000 tons of cotton seed, worth \$128,950,000; and for the "cotton year" ended July 31, 1915, a consumption of 5,597,362 bales (exclusive of linters), exports of 8,322,688 bales, net imports of 363,595 bales, a supply on hand at the beginning of the year of 1,365,864 bales and at the end of the year of 3,936,104 bales, and cotton spindles active at some time during the year to the number of 31,964,235. The production of linters from the crop of 1914 was 832,401 running bales; the quantity consumed during the year, 411,845 bales; and the quantity exported, 221,875 bales. For the entire world the production of lint cotton destined for factory use was 24,764,000 and the mill consumption 19,761,000 net 500-pound bales. The production both in the United States and in the world was the greatest in the history of the industry.

Texas alone produced 4,592,112 equivalent 500-pound bales, or more than one-fourth of the total American crop of 1914; while seven States—Texas, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Arkansas, each with an output of more than 1,000,000 bales—together produced seven-eighths of the crop.

The closer delinting of cotton seed is strikingly shown by the figures for linter production. Between 1899 and 1914 the output of this product increased from 114,544 bales to 856,900 bales, or by nearly 650 per cent. Many mills now obtain over 100 pounds of linters per ton of seed treated, or more than double the yield of a few years ago. Texas Leads in Great Increase for Three-quarters of a Century.

During the three-quarters of a century from 1839 to 1914 the production of cotton in the United States increased from 2,063,915 to 15,905,840 running bales, or by 671 per cent. The greatest increase, both absolutely and proportionally, shown by any State is that for Texas, whose production in 1914, 4,390,200 running bales, was nearly 75 times as great as its crop of 1849 (the earliest year for which census statistics for that State are available), which was 58,072 bales.

The average price obtained by the growers for the 1914 cotton crop was 7.33 cents per pound—more than $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents less than in 1910 and more than 5 cents less than in 1913. The averages for the last five crops were: 1910, 13.95 cents; 1911, 9.56 cents; 1912, 11.48 cents; 1913, 12.48 cents; and 1914, 7.33 cents. The average price obtained by the growers for cotton seed from the crop of 1914 was \$17.90 per ton—nearly \$8 less than in 1910 and \$4.50 less than in 1913. The prices for the five crops were: 1910, \$25.80; 1911, \$17.10; 1912, \$19.20; 1913, \$22.40; and 1914, \$17.90.

Although the crop of 1914 was the largest ever grown, exceeding that of the preceding year by nearly 2,000,000 bales, its total value—cotton and cotton seed combined—was estimated at only \$720,080,000, equal to about seven-tenths of the value of the 1913 crop, which was over a billion dollars. About 18 per cent of the total value of the 1914 crop was contributed by cotton seed.

At the beginning of the cotton year, which ended July 31, 1915, the supply of cotton and linters on hand in the United States was 1,577,448

running bales (counting round as half bales), of which amount 989,980 bales were held in consuming establishments; and during the year the ginnings were 16,738,241 running bales and the net imports were 363,595 equivalent 500-pound bales. During the year the American mill consumption of cotton and linters amounted to 6,009,207 bales and the exports to 8,544,563 bales; and there remained on hand at the end of the year a total of 4,364,890 bales.

Growing Amount Consumed by American Mills.

The amount consumed by American mills was greater than in any preceding year, but the exports fell off somewhat in quantity and very much in value as compared with 1914. The value of cotton and linters exported during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, was \$376,217,972, whereas in the preceding year the value of such exports had amounted to \$610,475,301. Exports to Great Britain and Ireland increased from 3,581,501 bales of 500 pounds each during the fiscal year 1914 to 3,919,749 bales in 1915; to Italy, from 537,357 to 1,127,400 bales; to Holland, from 35,053 to 544,035; to Spain, from 297,339 to 464,504; to Japan, from 353,440 to 428,806; and to Canada, from 150,993 to 182,790. On the other hand, the exports to Germany dropped from 2,884,324 to 294,194; to France, from 1,139,399 to 692,699; to Belgium, from 227,474 to 5,057; to Austria-Hungary, from 106,511 to 455; and to Russia, from 99,076 to 82,125. Exports to European countries other than those just named increased during the year from 63,725 to 898,096 bales.

The small amount of cotton imported into this country is principally Egyptian, which is used for mercerizing and in the manufacture of thread, knit goods, and lace.

During the three-quarter-century period from 1840 to 1915 the consumption of cotton in the United States increased from 236,525 to 6,009,207 bales, or about twenty-fivefold. The greatest cotton-manufacturing State is Massachusetts, which consumed 1,282,937 bales during the year; North Carolina, with a consumption of 910,154 bales, stood second; South Carolina, with 811,564 bales, third; and Georgia, with 659,853 bales, fourth.

Development of Cotton Manufacture in Southern States.

The manufacture of cotton in the South had been carried on for many years, but only in a small way prior to the decade 1870-1880, when the industry in that section began to grow rapidly. During that decade and in each of the two succeeding ones the consumption of cotton in these States nearly trebled, and during the past 15 years it has more than doubled. During the quarter century from 1890 to 1915 the consumption in the cotton-growing States increased by nearly 500 per cent, while the increase in the New England States was only 46 per cent and that in the United States as a whole was less than 140 per cent. Since 1912 the annual consumption in the cotton-growing States has amounted to more than one-half of the total for the United States, and in 1915 these States consumed 3,026,969 bales (exclusive of linters), compared with 2,570,393 bales manufactured in all other States. During the five-year period 1911-1915 the consumption in Georgia increased by 38.9 per cent, in South Carolina by 32.1 per cent, and in North Carolina by 31.4 per cent. The greatest actual increase was that reported for North Carolina, 217,695 bales.

Although the bulk of the world's cotton crop is produced in the United States, a considerable quantity is grown in other parts of the

world. In all about 9,300,000 bales of cotton destined for mill consumption were raised in India, Egypt, China, Russia, and other countries. The production in the four countries named amounted to over 8,000,000 bales, or about seven-eighths of the total production outside of the United States. The production of commercial cotton of India alone in 1914 is estimated at 3,826,000 bales. Other countries producing more than 100,000 bales in 1914 were Brazil, Persia, Mexico, Turkey, and Peru in the order in which named, and about 325,000 bales were produced in still other countries.

The increase in the use of cotton throughout the world during the past century is strikingly shown by a comparison of the figures for 1811 with those for the cotton year 1913-14, the latest in which normal conditions have prevailed in the industry. In the earlier year the world's production was estimated at about 1,100,000 bales, whereas in the later the total consumption by cotton mills was more than 21,000,000 bales. In the past 15 years alone the increase has been about 40 per cent.

NEW GLASS FACTORY IN JAPAN.

[Extract from Japan Mail of Oct. 16 by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama.]

At Tsurumi, midway between Tokyo and Yokohama, a big glass factory is being built by the Asahi Glass Co., which already has two big mills at Amagasaki and Tobata, these being in full operation to meet an ever-increasing demand from at home and abroad. The new mill, which is planned to turn over a big amount of sheet glass, will be completed by the early part of next year, if work progresses normally.

The company, which is almost the sole supplier of the goods, not only in Japan but in the East, is quite justified in taking this step to increase its plant, for all markets in the East now turn to this company for the supply of the goods which they can not get from either America, which is too engrossed in the turn-over of Europe-bound goods, or from Belgium.

China, the Dutch Indies, Manchuria, Australia, British India, and other Eastern countries, which began to buy the goods from Japan soon after the war stopped the supply of goods from Europe, still continue to send fresh orders. The intensity of demand from overseas is well reflected in the increasing shipment of the goods at Moji. Every liner which touches at the port takes several hundred boxes of sheet glass intended for those Eastern markets.

In the domestic market, where the season for the greatest demand has just set in, after a depression of long duration, the usual activity of the season is enhanced by a large demand from war-goods factories which are enlarging their plants. Orders from the Hokkaido are also increasing at the approach of the winter season there.

Prices are on the upgrade, even if no artificial measures be taken, but wholesalers recently announced that prices would be raised. Their decision has, however, placed them in an awkward position, since they must suffer from a reaction when the goods are supplied by the Asahi Glass Co. more liberally than now, as foreign demand slackens. Accordingly the market is now beset with disorder.

With the completion of the new mill the company's output will be increased to more than 600,000 tons.

OFFICIAL NUMBERS FOR MERCHANT VESSELS.

The following is a statement of official numbers and signal letters awarded to merchant sail and steam screw vessels by the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, during the week ended November 20, 1915:

Name.	Official number.	Signal letters.	Tonnage.		Year built.	Where built.	Home port.
			Gross.	Net.			
Sail:							
Golden Gate ^a	213770	LFGV	2,340	2,273	1883	Whitehaven, Eng.....	San Francisco.
Steam screw:							
Amazonia ^c	213782	LFQR	2,199	1,327	1891	Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.	New York.
Edna ^d	213743	LFQG	1,783	1,135	1903	Bergen, Norway.....	San Francisco.
Pacific.....	213769	LFQS	6,034	4,380	1915	San Francisco, Cal.....	Do.

^a Formerly British ship Golden Gate.

^b Foreign-built vessel admitted to American registry under the act of Aug. 18, 1914.

^c Formerly Brazilian steamship Amazonia.

^d Formerly Mexican steamship Maaslian.

The total number of foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, since June 30, 1915, was 22, of 56,996 gross tons.

PLANS OF MERCANTILE BANK OF THE AMERICAS.

The Mercantile Bank of the Americas, the organization of which in New York was mentioned in COMMERCE REPORTS for October 5, 1915, is not establishing its own branches in Central and South America, but is making connections with existing concerns in those countries. Commercial Agent Porter, in charge of the New York office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has received from the officials of the bank the information that the field for the extension of its services lies in Central America and the northern Republics of South America.

The Mercantile Bank of the Americas has made connections with banking institutions or bankers in Nicaragua, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Honduras. The general manager will leave New York shortly to take an extended trip through Central and South America, with a view to studying conditions and furthering the business of the bank.

ACCELERATOR FOR HARDENING CONCRETE.

Experiments have been made by the United States Bureau of Standards to develop a method for accelerating the hardening of concrete, in order that the material might be used in revetment work in place of the willow mats that have been used in the past along the Mississippi River. The Bureau finds that 4 per cent of calcium chloride added to the mixing water increases the strength of the concrete at the age of one day 100 per cent or more. In some cases the strength of the concrete in which the calcium chloride was used at the age of two days equaled 75 per cent or more of the strength normally attained in one month.

The Bureau of Standards believes that the findings of this investigation will be of appreciable value in concrete construction.

RUSSIAN WOOD-PULP AND PAPER SITUATION.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow.]

The wood-pulp industry has not yet sufficiently developed in Russia, but its prospects are bright, in view of the abundance of raw material supplied by the immense forest area in Russia and of the growing demand for paper both in Russia and in foreign countries. The chief material for the manufacture of paper is wood pulp, treated mechanically or chemically.

The use of rags as a raw material is rapidly diminishing; they are still used for the manufacture of the best grades of paper in other countries, but in Russia rags are also used for the manufacture of medium grades, and the lack of this raw material is often the reason for the closing of paper mills. Russia, however, has sufficient timber, and there are larger forests of pine and aspen in Russia than in any other country on the globe. At the same time there are many deciduous trees in Russia which are little used for construction purposes, and can therefore be profitably utilized for making wood pulp. There are also many wind-fallen trees in the dense forests hindering normal growth. It is stated that waste material at the wood mills would also be available for this purpose.

All these materials, which could easily replace rags, the supply of which does not meet the demand, are little utilized in Russia. Therefore the paper industry in Russia is growing slowly and the imports of paper are increasing each year.

Imports of Paper Pulp.

There is a general shortage of paper pulp, which is imported in increasing quantities. The following table shows the imports into Russia of chemical and mechanical wood pulp in 1913 and 1914 and the principal sources of supply:

Countries of origin.	Chemical pulp.				Mechanical pulp.			
	1913		1914		1913		1914	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Finland.....	4,057	\$173,580	13,050	\$533,000	16,032	\$615,000	13,250	\$319,000
Germany.....	2,946	126,035	(a)	(a)	3,136	87,945	(a)	(a)
All other countries.....	1,816	77,716	2,440	103,000	1,398	46,879	2,620	82,000
Total.....	8,819	377,331	15,460	636,000	20,566	749,824	15,870	401,000

* Not available.

The figures for 1913 include the imports over all frontiers, but only about 1½ tons of mechanical wood pulp, valued at \$42, and 15½ tons of chemical wood pulp, valued at \$663, were imported over the Asiatic frontier in that year; the figures for 1914 refer to the European frontier only. The figures given for chemical pulp in both years include a small amount of pulps from rags, straw, peat, etc.

Production of Wood Pulp in Russia.

The Russian wood-pulp industry is steadily growing, however, as is illustrated by the following figures: Mechanical wood pulp, 20,592 tons in 1900, 41,040 tons in 1908, 49,608 tons in 1912; wood cardboard, 12,708 tons in 1900, 22,950 tons in 1908, and 31,070 tons in

1912; chemical wood pulp, 28,922 tons in 1900, 119,092 tons in 1908, and 170,082 tons in 1912. In comparison with 1900 the manufacture in Russia of mechanical wood pulp and wood cardboard has grown two and a half times and that of chemical wood pulp almost sixfold. The quantity of chemical wood pulp manufactured is increasing steadily.

For the last few years an increase of capital invested in this industry is noticeable, but on the whole the output of the half product in Russia is limited in comparison with the production of other countries of far smaller forest areas. For instance, the United States produces 2,700,000 tons of mechanical and chemical wood pulp per annum, Sweden produces not less than 900,000 tons of chemical wood pulp, and Germany, with a forest area of 34,970,000 acres, about 9,000,000 tons of mechanical and chemical wood pulp.

The greater part of the production of these countries is used by the local mills for making paper. Russia, as has been noted, produces only 230,000 to 250,000 tons of mechanical and chemical wood pulp, whereas the requirements for paper, in connection with the expected development of trade in Russia and the introduction of compulsory education, will necessarily increase to a great extent. In the consumption of paper Russia stands behind England, France, Sweden, Spain, and Portugal. Statistics show that in 1906 the consumption of paper per individual in Russia was 5 pounds, in England 50 pounds. At an increase to 10 pounds per individual in Russia (allowing for a present consumption of 7 pounds per individual), the demand for paper will increase from 216,000 to 252,000 tons, and there will be a corresponding increase in the demand for wood pulp.

Wood-Pulp and Paper Situation in Foreign Countries.

The extensive consumption of paper in England, France, and Belgium is causing in these countries a great need for wood pulp. Thus the demand of the world's market is growing each year; from 2,160,000 tons in 1911 it grew to 2,700,000 tons in 1912, the imports of wood pulp in several countries being distributed as follows: Belgium, 160,000 short tons; Great Britain, 1,035,000 short tons; Italy, 102,000 short tons; United States, 605,000 short tons; and France, 460,000 short tons.

These countries, as well as many others, are continually increasing their demand for half products. The requirements of wood pulp are increasing in the United States, but Great Britain is the greatest importer of wood pulp, and continues to develop its paper industry in connection with the growing demand for paper and paper products both in England and in other countries.

Sweden exports up to 950,000 tons of wood pulp per annum, and Norway 825,000 tons. As regards half products and products, Germany occupies first place, having exported in 1912, 490,000 tons of paper, cardboard, and paper goods.

In connection with the growth of the demand for raw material, Germany had commenced even to change its forestry systems by reducing the cutting of trees. Germany, nevertheless, has not sufficient raw material, and for the last few years has been importing 30 per cent of the chemical wood pulp required by German paper mills. Seventy-five per cent of this, valued at millions of dollars, was exported to Germany by Russia. Russia exports a comparatively small

quantity of wood pulp. In 1913 the exports of this article were valued at \$433,000, and of paper at \$149,000.

The statistics published in 1914 in Germany show that the paper-mill production, if normally carried on, proves very profitable, which was illustrated by the 10, 15, and 20 per cent dividends paid by the mills in 1913 and by the growing number of paper mills in Germany, notwithstanding the surplus of paper stocks noted in recent years.

Outlook for Russian Wood-Pulp and Paper Industries.

There is no doubt that the raw material hitherto exported from Russia to Germany could be utilized in Russia for the production of wood pulp, cardboard, and paper, the demand for which is growing both in Russia and abroad. There are many obstacles in the way of the development of this industry. For the development of the chemical wood-pulp industry considerable capital is necessary, as well as a guaranteed supply of raw material for some length of time, and trained workmen. More technical knowledge in the production is also necessary; this would facilitate the utilization of waste material and make the product cheaper.

DOLLAR LETTERS OF CREDIT IN RUSSIA.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Sept. 21.]

A prominent American traveler now in Petrograd took with him from New York a letter of credit made out in terms of American dollars and another letter of credit made out in terms of English pounds sterling. On his way here he had occasion to draw money in the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, and found that to local banks in these countries the dollar letter of credit was acceptable, as also to the banks in Petrograd. The letter of credit in pounds sterling was taken along chiefly as a precaution in case of any difficulty over the dollar letter of credit, but in all the countries visited en route it proved an unnecessary precaution.

In Petrograd the value of the American dollar in Russian rubles is quoted daily at the banks, the same as the English pound sterling. An American drawing money on his dollar letter of credit can know exactly what it is costing him for exchange and how much may be charged up to his bank account in America against drafts arriving. If, however, he draws money on a letter of credit in pounds sterling, he can not figure exactly what the exchange amounts to until he can get information as to the exact value of the English pound sterling in New York when his draft reaches there via London. Apparently the cost of exchange, at least in Petrograd, is approximately the same, whether the drafts are drawn directly on New York or negotiated through London, but in the former case there is a decided advantage in being able immediately to enter up in one's private account the exact amount of exchange, whereas in the second case one may have to wait for some time to get the information exactly.

In consequence of the greatly increased importance of New York City as a world financial center, since the present war started, banks in foreign countries have had an increased disposition to arrange for direct financial operations with New York instead of using London as an intermediary. Moreover, at present the value of the ruble in American dollars is perhaps even more closely studied than the

value in pounds sterling, exchange with New York being an all-important factor in the financial situation here, especially as Russian exports to the United States have of late been insignificant in comparison with the value of the imports. It would seem decidedly advantageous to American financial interests and would materially assist travelers if the practice of issuing dollar letters of credit could be adopted generally by the bankers of the United States, so that all foreign banks might become accustomed to them and never fail to accept them.

Travelers' Checks and Letters of Credit Compared.

Travelers' checks, which appear to have been increasingly used in recent years in the United States, have, like the dollar letter of credit, the advantage of being issued in terms of American currency. Since the war started, however, such checks have sometimes been cashed at a considerable discount in Russia, owing to the decline in the exchange value of the ruble. A considerable disadvantage, however, has occurred in cashing such checks (since the war started) in Russia, where there has been a serious depreciation of the currency. A travelers' check has printed on it a fixed value for the ruble in dollars (\$0.515 to the ruble), and the traveler when he presents the check may have denied to him the difference between the value of the ruble at the present rate of exchange and the value as printed on the check.

Some of the local banks in Russia have been inclined to be fair to holders of these checks and give them in rubles the true equivalent of the value in dollars, but others have insisted on giving them only so many rubles as the checks would seem to call for, which at lately prevailing rates of exchange would represent a loss of about 30 per cent. In the case of dollar letters of credit, however, the holder of such letter of credit in drawing money seems able always to draw at the banking rate of exchange prevailing on the day the money is drawn.

WORK ON SEA-HERRING FISHERIES CONCLUDED.

The sea-herring fisheries and oceanography of the Gulf of Maine received the attention of workers on the *Grampus*, which on October 30, concluded a six months' cruise along that section of the Atlantic coast, covering upward of 5,000 miles. The United States Bureau of Fisheries, which the ship represented, reports that in the Gulf of Maine and neighboring waters the *Grampus* occupied 73 oceanographic stations, and took about 60 samples of herring (large and small) between Lockport, Nova Scotia, and Nantucket, Mass. About 12,000 herring were examined, and a large series of scale samples secured.

A large collection of data was obtained relating to the general fisheries of the region covered, in addition to the special line to which the party was assigned. The assistant of the bureau detailed to this work has returned to Washington to study the samples secured.

A giant Diesel engine at the San Francisco Exposition, says the management, burns fuel oil at a cost of only 62 cents an hour and produces 500 horsepower.

SELLING MOTOR VEHICLES IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

A tour of the countries of Central America by a motor-vehicle salesman following a carefully planned itinerary would undoubtedly lead to the establishment of a good trade, though large immediate results should not be expected. The lack of good roads will be found the chief obstacle to the selling of motor vehicles in these countries. When a salesman talks cars, he necessarily calls attention to the need of better highways, and when good roads are finally constructed, there will be not only a market for motor vehicles, but the most important factor in the general development of the country will have been supplied.

An Itinerary from New Orleans to Panama.

Starting from New Orleans, the salesman would put in first at Belize, British Honduras, then catch the "tramp" or banana boat to Stann Creek, and from Stann Creek take a steamer to Livingston, Guatemala, which is the port of entry for the great coffee district of Alta Verapaz. There are practically no roads for motoring in any of these places, but some missionary work might be accomplished.

From Livingston the salesman can get a launch to Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, and from there take a boat for Puerto Cortez, La Ceiba, and other points on the north coast of Honduras, coming back to Barrios and up to Guatemala City. Guatemala has people of wealth who are buying cars and building roads, and there should be a good opportunity there. The port of San Jose de Guatemala is next on the line of travel, and at this port the salesman takes a steamer for Acajutla, Salvador, going from there to San Salvador. The roads are fairly good in this section. San Salvador itself is wealthy and progressive, and possibly a number of orders could be secured for both freight trucks and passenger cars. There are several good towns that can be worked from this city, Santa Ana being one of the most important.

From Salvador the salesman might go to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The road between San Lorenzo and Tegucigalpa, the "Carretera del Sur," is one of the finest highways in all Central America. It is a model, made with American machinery, and is 80 miles long. The grades, however, are as high as 11 per cent at some points, and there are some abrupt curves. There are two or three competing auto lines on this road now, one of them having a mail contract and express service, but possibly two cars and a big truck could do some business at reduced rates. Two-wheeled ox carts now carry the freight in from 6 to 10 days. The rest of the country is broken, and good roads are scarce. San Lorenzo is the mainland port for Pacific Honduras. The maritime port is Amapala, on Tigre Island, where the salesman may take ship for Corinto, Nicaragua. From Corinto he can go by rail to Managua, Masaya, Granada, and other points. The country in this section is not so broken, and the cost of building roads is less. A certain amount of road is available, and there should be some market for trucks for the sugar estates.

Coming back to Corinto, the salesman takes ship for Puntarenas, Costa Rica, which is a good, growing town. From here he can go by rail to San Jose, the capital, where he should have plenty of time, for from this point he can work several promising towns in the

vicinity. Costa Rica has some of the best roads in Central America, and should provide a fine opening for motor trucks to handle coffee. From Port Limon the salesman can take a boat for Colon, and then go on to Panama.

Expense and Time Required for the Tour.

The salesman's expenses for ordinary travel and hotels will be about the same as in the United States, but he should be allowed more latitude in the matter of time and in the exercise of judgment and initiative. If a firm sends out a first-class man in whom full confidence can be placed—and no other kind should be sent—he should not be hampered with too many instructions. He should be able to speak Spanish well, and to feel at home in any society, for he will be expected to participate to some extent in the social life of his prospective customers. This he can do without extravagance or dissipation, but it will require a fairly liberal allowance of time. Many American salesmen have to leave their fields half worked because their orders compel them to rush through business as at home—a short-sighted policy for Latin-American business.

OREGON PAPER AGAIN FINDS MARKET IN AUSTRALIA.

[Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 5.]

For the first time in more than a decade, stated the Morning Oregonian in its October 21 issue, Oregon paper mills are shipping their products to Australia. An order for 2,000 tons of news print has just been filled for Sydney, Melbourne, and other cities of the Commonwealth at the Camas, Wash., plant of a large Oregon manufacturer and the paper taken to Portland for shipment. The paper is put up in both rolls and bales and is understood to be in the nature of a trial order. In former years the mills in the Portland territory did a heavy business with Australia, but on account of the lack of adequate shipping facilities, this business was lost and the Australian people began buying their paper in Europe.

The clipping from the Oregonian was submitted to the San Francisco branch by the local agent of the paper company, who had been supplied by this office with information as to shipping facilities to Australia and the west coast of South America.

AMERICAN SUBSTITUTE FOUND FOR FOREIGN LIME.

A firm of importers in New York, which was receiving high-priced lime from Germany and Austria, has found in this country a lime which is a good substitute for the foreign product. It is used for abrasive purposes, principally as a cleaner before nickel plating, or in combination with other materials for buffing purposes on nickel-plated work.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Paper, No. 19351.—A letter to the Bureau states that a large paper importer in India desires samples, lowest prices, and terms of cream laid, cream wove, printing, colored, drawing, wrapping, manifold, kraft, parchment, and flint papers in different sizes and weights from 8 pounds and upward. It is requested that the minimum quantity and time required to fill orders be stated in the first correspondence.

General representation, No. 19352.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a man in Brazil is opening a mail-order house and desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of goods suitable for such business.

Commission agent, No. 19353.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a man in his district desires to act as commission agent for firms wishing to introduce their goods in that country. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Fertilizers, No. 19354.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Cuba stating that a fertilizer is being manufactured in that country, and they desire to find a market for it in the United States. It is composed of the following substances: Nitrogen, ammonia, phosphoric acid, and phosphate.

Silk thread, etc., No. 19355.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that an American in Chile desires to represent American firms manufacturing silk thread for sewing and embroidering. The silks are sold in skeins, on spools, cards, and in a number of different ways for use in the manufacture of socks, stockings, and women's clothing, etc.

Salt cake, No. 19356.—A letter to the Bureau from a man in Canada states that he wishes to be placed in communication with exporters of salt cake, to be used in the manufacture of wood pulp. It is stated that 5,000 tons can be used annually.

General representation, No. 19357.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in South Africa stating that a company desires to represent American exporters. No particular line is mentioned.

Cycle car and automobiles, No. 19358.—A commercial agent of the Bureau writes that a firm in Sweden desires to secure an agency for a cycle car and a small cheap roadster. References can be furnished by the firm.

Disinfectant, No. 19359.—The municipality of Port Elizabeth, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, will receive tenders until December 8, 1915, for furnishing 3,000 gallons of fluid disinfectant, to be delivered, all charges paid, at the municipal depot, Port Elizabeth, not later than February 29, 1916, delivery to be made in casks, which latter are to remain the property of the municipality. Tenders should be addressed to the Town Clerk, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, indorsed "Tender for Disinfectant," accompanied, if possible, with a gallon sample plainly labeled.

Rice and sugar, No. 19360.—An American consular officer in Greece reports that a man desires to purchase rice and sugar. The rice should be of a long, slender grain, distinctly translucent, with some polish, and must be packed in double bags; the sugar desired is both granulated and domino. Quotations on rice and sugar should be per 100 kilos (220 pounds) c. i. f. Piræus. Correspondence may be in English.

Flour, No. 19361.—A report from an American consular officer in Spain states that a man is interested in the importation of flour, and wishes samples, prices, and terms. Correspondence may be in English.

Women's knitted underwear, No. 19362.—A company in Australia informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of cotton vests and all kinds of knitted underwear for women.

Ostrich feathers, No. 19363.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm in South Africa desires names of importers or sellers of ostrich feathers of all grades. It is stated that the firm can execute orders of any size promptly.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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ITALIAN HEMP FOR UNITED STATES.

[Cablegram from American Embassy, Rome.]

Foreign Office states that permission will be given for the exportation of 13,000 quintals of hemp to the United States, two-fifths to be shipped December and three-fifths immediately afterwards.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE IN HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Nov. 7, 1915.]

The unfavorable rate of foreign exchange prevailing in Honduras was slightly modified during the month of October, 1915, exchange on New York and New Orleans falling from 310 for the first half of the month to 305 for the latter half. There was practically no demand for exchange on London, Paris, and Hamburg, and such European settlements as there were were made on the basis of New York quotations, with the addition of the cost of dollar exchange. Buying rates are usually about 10 points lower than selling rates, to which the above quotations refer.

STATIC LOAD TESTS FOR CONCRETE BEAMS.

The first of a series of concrete investigations of large-size test members has been started by the United States Bureau of Standards. The making of 36 concrete beams, 8 by 11 inches in cross section, and 13 feet long, is the initial step in the work. These are to be subjected to static load tests, the beams being piled in a criblike manner and then further loaded by a platform carrying a dead weight. The deflection, etc., of the beams will be measured from time to time, and after one year's observation, a duplicate set of beams will be tested to destruction.

SPECIAL AGENT TO CONFER WITH BANKERS.

In order to give bankers and other financial men interested in South America the benefit of this observation while on a recent tour of South America, Mr. W. H. Lough, special agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, is planning a short trip to various large cities of the United States during the coming two weeks. According to present arrangements, he will be in Cincinnati November 29 and 30, St. Louis December 1, Minneapolis December 2 and 3, Chicago December 4 to 7, Detroit December 8, Cleveland December 9, and Pittsburgh December 10, returning then to New York. He will also probably visit other Eastern cities at a later date.

Mr. Lough considers that the time is opportune for the establishment of further facilities for financing our trade and investments in South America, and that the cooperation of financial interests in the United States in placing a bank or a system of banks in South America is feasible. He also expects to suggest to interested financial men a plan for an organization to facilitate the financing of our export trade, obtaining credit information, etc. Several banks in the cities named already have active foreign departments and assist their customers in building up South American business, and it is these banks particularly which will probably be interested in Mr. Lough's suggestions.

Publication on Banking Opportunities.

This work of the special agent follows the recent publication of a comprehensive monograph on the subject of the banking situation in South America, entitled "Banking Opportunities in South America," Special Agents Series No. 106, obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, for 20 cents. In this book, the result of an investigation in South America covering the first part of the present year, Mr. Lough reviews the various factors entering into the problem of establishing American banks in the principal countries of South America. After giving a general survey of the banking field he goes at some length into the history of the present English and German banks in South America, indicating by figures of capitalization, dividends, etc., what has been the success of each one. Special attention is given to the situation in Peru and Chile, where Mr. Lough considers that the best present opportunities for American institutions are to be found.

This publication, together with a pamphlet previously issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce entitled "Financial Developments in South America, Special Agents Series No. 103 (also written by Mr. Lough and obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents for 5 cents), will be invaluable to any banker or other financial man who contemplates participating in the establishment of new institutions in South America.

What is probably the largest leather belt (34 inches wide, double) ever sent to Argentina, according to the Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer, was sold by a New York firm, which sent a representative to the Province of Tucuman and, working in conjunction with its local agent, secured some excellent business in that section.

NOTES FROM URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, Oct. 9.]

Montevideo Harbor to Have New Dredge Boat.

The work of deepening the harbor of Montevideo is to be facilitated by the purchase of a new steam tug boat. This is made possible by an appropriation of 1,000,000 pesos (\$1,034,000) for dredging materials in a law enacted September 24, 1915. [Previous reports on the dredging of the port of Montevideo were published in Consular and Trade Reports for Mar. 21 and Dec. 30, 1913, and Mar. 11, 1914.]

[Diario Oficial, Oct. 13.]

New Bond Issue.

The national bank of Uruguay (Banco Hipotecario) is authorized by a law of October 6, 1915, to issue bonds to the value of 5,000,000 pesos (\$5,170,000). These bonds, to be known as series Q, are to bear 6 per cent annual interest, payable quarterly, with the usual amortization service. Both interest and sinking fund are fully guaranteed by the Government. [Previous notes on the finances of Uruguay were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 11 and June 15, 1915.]

[Diario Oficial, Oct. 19.]

Competition for Artistic Decoration of Medical College.

Official approval has just been given to a project for the artistic decoration of the buildings of the college of medicine of the University at Montevideo. The decoration is to consist of sculpture of an allegorical and historical character in the assembly rooms, corridors, amphitheaters, etc., of the medical department. A special commission is to be named to submit detailed plans for the location, dimensions, and general nature of the work to be ordered. From among these plans the board of directors will select those which it approves for the basis of the designs to be offered by artists who may wish to compete for this work.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.

*The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

TARIFFS ON CHRISTMAS GIFTS SENT ABROAD.

Many weeks in advance the preparations are made for the international tours of Santa Claus. Americans who are planning to send Christmas presents to persons in foreign countries want to be sure that those who receive the gifts will not be compelled to pay any charges. Many letters come annually to Washington asking what to do to avoid any difficulties. The communications have already begun to arrive, and are being answered by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce.

The writers of these letters, which, before the end of the year, will have come from every part of the country, are particularly interested in tariff rates which must be paid on gifts in the lands to which they are sent.

Many persons who write to Washington, asking for tariff rates in particular countries, fail to specify the kinds of articles that are to be sent abroad as Christmas gifts. It is quite necessary that such details should be given in order to learn the amount of the tax. The Bureau can not send out an entire tariff schedule in answer to each letter, and even if it did very few persons would know what to do with it after they received the document.

Many persons in the past have asked what method should be adopted in order that the tariff charge might be paid at the point of shipment in this country, by the giver of the gift. All such queries have been answered uniformly with the statement that there is no direct way in which the import duty charged by another country can be paid here, but if the package is placed in the charge of an express company provision can be made for payment of duty by the express agent abroad.

Although there is no exemption from customhouse charges for Christmas gifts, there are some conditions under which certain gifts going from country to country may escape payment. Some Governments rule that wedding presents brought in by subjects shall not be taxed. Some also exempt possessions that are part of an inheritance. But the season of universal giving is not on the tariff calendar as one when the pathways between the nations shall be cleared of obstructions.

WOMEN TRAM CONDUCTORS IN LEEDS.

[Consul Homer M. Byington. Leeds, England, Oct. 28.]

Women tram conductors have now appeared upon the electric cars of the Leeds Corporation Tramways. The first corps, composed of 20 young women dressed in blue serge tunics and skirts with red facings and wearing uniform caps, has proved very satisfactory, and it is stated that the number to be employed may reach 200. The rate of pay proposed is the same as that of the men, 5½d. (\$0.11) per hour, which for full time means 27s. 6d. (\$6.68) per week.

[Mention of the employment of women as tram conductors and mail carriers at Nottingham, England, was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 14, 1915.]

Demonstrations in canning and bottling fruits, vegetables, and meats are being given in the Transvaal by the Union of South Africa Government under the auspices of the Small Holders' Society.

SWEDEN NOT A FUR MARKET.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm.]

It would probably be difficult, if not impossible, for American houses to obtain supplies of furs from Sweden, for the reason that Swedish dealers are themselves more or less dependent upon Leipzig, London, and Russia; in other words, Swedish dealers get practically the same furs in the same markets as do American dealers. These furs are chiefly ermine, fine marten, fox, and otter.

As there are no trappers in this country, there can be no shipments from them, neither are there any exporters. There are only manufacturing dealers, who export to foreign countries providing prices are favorable and it suits them to do so. Terms are cash against bill of lading. It is impossible to ascertain to what countries furs are shipped from Sweden at present. It is known, however, that some Stockholm firms have sent mixed shipments of fox skins to the United States.

Fur Ranching May be Undertaken.

While Sweden was at one time a very important fur producer, it is doubtful if the Kingdom will ever again hold a prominent position in this regard. This is certainly true of wild animals. What the future may hold out in the way of breeding fur animals in the great peat lands of the north is a matter of mere speculation. However, there is some talk of starting a breeding industry along the lines that have been successful in the United States and Canada, for there are few European countries which have more excellent natural conditions for creating such an industry than has the northern part of Sweden.

It might be mentioned here, as showing the trend of the times, that a manufacturer in Stockholm went to Russia in September to purchase 1,000,000 crowns (\$268,000) worth of furs, it being rumored here that furs were very cheap in Russia then. The venture was purely speculative, as it was his intention to store these furs until prices reach a higher figure than at present.

GRAPE AND WINE PRODUCTION OF ITALY.

[L'Économiste Européen, Oct. 29.]

According to the latest information from Rome, the 1915 harvest of grapes for wine making is much less than that of the two preceding years and than the average for 1909-1913. The figures are as follows, in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds: 3,820,000 tons in 1915, as compared with 6,808,400 tons in 1914; 7,999,200 tons in 1913 and 7,096,700 tons during the five years from 1909 to 1913. The principal producing regions and their estimated yields are the following, according to the forecasts of Vinicolo: Emilia, 660,000 tons; Venetia, 440,000 tons; Sicily, 500,000 tons; Piedmont, 440,000 tons; Campania, 350,000 tons; Tuscany, 320,000 tons; Lombardy, 235,000 tons; Apulia, 185,000 tons; Latium, 140,000 tons; The Marches, 120,000 tons; Abuzzi e Molise, 110,000 tons.

The wine yield, estimated at 24,000,000 hectoliters (634,000,000 gallons), against 43,000,000 hectoliters (1,136,000,000 gallons) in 1914 and 52,000,000 hectoliters (1,374,000,000 gallons) in 1913, is said to be of inferior quality, while in France, in spite of a large decrease in the harvest, the wine is generally superior in quality to that of last year.

AMERICAN OUTBOARD MOTORS FOR CHINA.

[Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, Peking, Oct. 4.]

While at Shanghai recently, it came to my attention, during a conversation with an American firm, that there will probably be a good opportunity for the sale of American outboard (detachable) motors in connection with inland water transportation in China, provided American manufacturers can produce a 5-horsepower motor capable of operating with crude petroleum.

My informant stated that Swedish manufacturers have put a motor of this sort on the market and that unless he can find an equivalent American motor he will probably be obliged to seek an agency for the Swedish article. He stated that it is estimated that as many as 8,000 owners of native craft in a certain section of China could be induced to use outboard motors, provided a cheap and easily operated motor could be produced capable of working on crude petroleum or at least on ordinary kerosene. It appears that through a working agreement with various companies handling gasoline the price is maintained at a figure far in advance of that ruling in America, and for this reason it is difficult to sell motors driven by gasoline.

American manufacturers of outboard motors may secure further particulars in regard to this matter by corresponding with the Shanghai firm referred to [whose address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by asking for file No.857.]

[Possible markets for these motors in Dalren and Nanking were the subject matter of articles that appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 9, 1914, and Jan. 21, 1915.]

TRADE NOTES FROM THE AZORES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, St. Michael, Oct. 30.]

Portugal Purchases Pineapple Plants.

St. Michael's pineapple plants are being shipped to Portugal, where efforts are being made to create a pineapple industry. Preliminary experiments are reported as successful.

American Roofing Gives Satisfaction.

The introductory shipment of American roofing material for use on the new theater at St. Michael has been put in place. In a newspaper interview, the supervising architect expressed himself as greatly pleased with the material, especially lauding its adaptability in quick construction. [Mention of this roofing shipment was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 9, 1915.]

Four thousand cases of glass for hothouse purposes have been received here from Lisbon to repair damage done by a recent hailstorm. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 12, 1915.] Each case contained 100 panes measuring 12 by 12 inches. Some 10 by 12 panes also were received. The c. i. f. price was 160 reis per kilo, or a little less than 6½ cents per pound.

Milking machines are being introduced in some parts of the south coast of Australia. The Sydney Herald says that one installed on a Rocky Hall farm is proving a success; with two men some 45 cows can be milked and the separating done in an hour.

SPOKANE CAPITAL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA MINES.

[Consul General R. E. Mansfield, Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 2.]

The city of Spokane, Wash., has derived enormous benefit in the past from the attention given by its business men to mining in British Columbia. With four exceptions, every important silver-lead mine in the Slocan is owned or controlled by Spokane capital, which has taken from the mines of this portion of British Columbia nearly \$8,000,000 in dividends and profits, or probably four times the amount of the original investment.

Record Year in Mineral Production.

The present year should constitute a record in the mineral production of the Province. Rossland is producing about 30 per cent more ore than last year. While the Kootenay mines did not ship much ore in the first half of the year, they are doing well at the present time, the shipments of silver-lead ores aggregating about 2,000 tons a month. The zinc shipments should also be taken into consideration. One smelter has treated about 400,000 tons of ore so far this year. Another has treated about 800,000 tons, and a third 300,000 tons. Two copper companies are handling about 25,000 tons a month each. The stamp mills are treating about 5,000 tons a month of gold ores.

The mineral production of British Columbia is about 11,000 tons a day, and the completion of new plants under construction will bring this output up to 20,000 tons a day, or a production from the metal mines of the Province aggregating about \$30,000,000 a year. The Boundary is the largest producing district, with an output of about 30,000 tons a week. The Coast comes next, with a production of about 20,000 tons a week. Rossland, with an output between 7,000 and 8,000 tons a week, East Kootenay, with a production of from 1,000 to 2,000 tons, and Slocan, with 1,000 tons a week, follow in order. The ores of the Slocan are, however, much the highest in average value.

Ceramic Development in British Columbia.

Much attention is being given to the development of ceramic industries in British Columbia, where there are clays capable of producing pottery and refractory products, which have not as yet been undertaken. A thorough investigation is being made of some of these clays and refractory materials, with a view to utilizing them, with the result that there is every promise of new industries being developed from the mining of these clays. Then there are several known deposits of infusorial earth, talcose minerals, feldspars, and magnesite, which could no doubt be profitably utilized.

[Consul Thomas D. Bowman, Fernie, B. C., Nov. 2.]

Year's Mining Record in Fernie District.

The official reports of the two Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, recently published, covering the mining industry for 1914, give some interesting statistics which were not available at the time the annual report from this district was written. Mining is the principal industry of this consular district.

There was a general decrease in mining activity during the latter part of 1914, although at the beginning of that year, the prospects had indicated a marked increase of activity. Operating mines and

smelters were obliged to close and development work ceased. This directly affected the coal mines. The railroads depend to a great extent upon the supply of ores to keep freight traffic active. Most of the coal produced here is used as steam coal. When the shipments of ores ceased the demand for coal decreased. The very important by-product—coke—also depended upon the smelters for a market.

Despite all this, the metal mines particularly made a good showing and appear to be now resuming normal activity.

A small but very active coal region in southwestern Alberta, the official Crows Nest mining district of Alberta, is the only part of that Province included in this consular district. All of the metal mines of this district are in British Columbia. The district's gross output of coal in 1913 was 3,340,789 tons and 2,296,707 tons in 1914. The gross coke production was 385,536 tons in 1913 and 291,812 tons in 1914. There are but two active coal districts in British Columbia—the Coast district and the Crows Nest Pass district, the latter being identified as the Fernie consular district. The Crows Nest district of southwest Albert is its continuation. Comparative figures show that the Crows Nest Pass district of British Columbia produced, roughly, about one-third of the total coal produced in the Province in 1914.

The metal products of the Fernie district were valued at \$14,637,138 in 1913 and \$10,420,590 in 1914. The total value of metal products for the Province of British Columbia in 1914 was \$15,790,661. Hence it may be seen that the mines of the Fernie consular district, comprising the official mining districts of East Kootenay, West Kootenay, and Grand Forks, and Greenwood of the Boundary district, produced approximately two thirds of the total mineral production for the Province. While no statistics are yet available for this year, there appears to be an improvement in the activity of metal mines.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 5.]

Dominion Assay Office at Vancouver.

The Dominion Assay Office in Vancouver has an equipment of the latest design. In the melting room is a bullion balance, with two sets of weights and one set of test weights, each ranging from one one-hundredth of an ounce to 500 ounces; electrically protected steel vaults; two No. 7, one No. 4½, and one No. 2 gas melting furnaces, of 1,200, 400, and 100 ounces capacity, respectively; four cast-iron pouring tables, three measuring 2 by 4 feet each and one 2 by 3 feet; a swinging crane over the larger furnaces for lifting the melts; a crusher and pulverizer for crushing and pulverizing the slags; a cast-iron shipping table, electric drill, gas-heated drying plate, iron crucible table, cleaning bench, cooling tank, etc.

The muffle furnace room is equipped with four gas muffle furnaces; a fume chamber; platinum parting apparatus, consisting of two dipping hooks, two boilers, and two trays, each containing 36 cups, and other necessary apparatus.

The loss in weight by assaying is seldom more than the one-hundredth part of an ounce. Two assays each are made by two assayers, these assays to agree within 1.6 of a part, otherwise the bar must be

remelted and reassayed. For the fine gold contained in the deposit \$20.67 per ounce is paid, and the price paid for the silver is according to the market value.

This office during the month of October received 238 deposits, valued at \$458,053, as compared with 147 deposits, valued at \$155,441, during the month of October, 1914, an increase of 91 deposits and of \$302,612 in value.

MOLASSES AS A PERNAMBUCO EXPORT ARTICLE.

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, Brazil, Oct. 2.]

There are numerous sugar mills in the Pernambuco district of Brazil, and, as many still use the "pan" process, there is a large supply of molasses. Practically all the sugar mills operate distilleries, producing rum and alcohol, for which there is a local demand. The result is that nearly all the molasses is consumed locally, with an average price of about \$7.50 per "pipe" of 127 gallons. The price of alcohol naturally establishes the price of molasses. Alcohol (test of 38° to 42° Cartier) is now quoted from 30 to 35 cents per "canada," 1.43 gallons.

Several American schooners are now bringing coal from Norfolk, Newport News, and other ports and returning empty. Some arrangement might be made with the owners of these vessels for carrying barrel staves to points in Brazil.

It is believed that sugar mills generally would rather export the molasses than distil it, provided the return were equal to that derived from alcohol. The molasses from this section, however, ferments much more readily than that shipped from the Barbados. On account of the heat in transit, therefore, leakage would be a very serious factor unless it were practicable to use, say, steel drums.

It is suggested that it might be well to consider the possibility of exporting alcohol from Brazil, instead of molasses, inasmuch as the bulk relation between molasses and alcohol (41° Cartier) is as 3 to 1, and also because this would eliminate the serious problem of leakage.

SIAM'S PURCHASES OF LUBRICATING OIL.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok Sept. 10.]

According to statistics furnished by the Bangkok customs officials, imports of lubricating oil into this port during the year ended March 31, 1915, amounted to 396,948 gallons, valued at \$114,264 gold, as compared with 333,934 gallons, valued at \$91,509, in the preceding fiscal 12 months. The value of these imports in the five fiscal years preceding 1914 was \$45,489 for 1909, \$56,264 for 1910, \$57,649 for 1911, \$52,565 for 1912, and \$67,150 for 1913. The imports during the last two years were supplied by:

Imported from—	1913-14	1914-15	Imported from—	1913-14	1914-15
United States	\$61,160	\$40,556	Germany	\$4,799	\$454
Singapore	2,827	20,218	All other countries	833	353
United Kingdom	16,708	19,974			
Netherlands India	5,986	18,917	Total	91,509	114,264
India	176	13,786			

CHINESE MARKET FOR AMERICAN CONDENSED MILK.

[Consul G. C. Hanson, Swatow, Oct. 11.]

The demand in this district for tinned milks is rapidly increasing, and this increase will be maintained because of the growing fondness on the part of all classes of Chinese for this article.

The Chinese maritime customs figures for the importation of milk, condensed, in tins, and evaporated cream, for the last five years are: 1910, 21,197 dozen; 1911, 22,659 dozen; 1912, 26,544 dozen; 1913, 27,921 dozen; 1914, 31,694 dozen. These figures show that despite the "ups and downs" of trade, due to revolutionary and other disturbances, the imports of this article are constantly increasing.

The milks sold in this market are Eagle Brand (American), St. Charles Cream (American), Shepherds' Brand and Milkmaid Brand (Anglo-Swiss). Milkmaid Brand seems to dominate on the local market. The Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., which manufactures this brand, has established strong agencies in all parts of China. This district is supervised by the Amoy agent, who makes periodical trips to Swatow. At Canton and Hongkong there are also agencies. The Canton office has adopted the plan of making its young traveling salesmen master the Chinese language, which is of great help in establishing and supervising native agencies and in advertising propaganda. This policy, which has been used to great advantage by the Standard Oil Co. and the British-American Tobacco Co., has borne fruit, as the increased sales of Milkmaid Brand testify.

The local agency is in the hands of a Chinese firm, which also handles Eagle Brand and St. Charles Brand. The March 1, 1915, retail price list of this firm quoted the following prices per can:

	Local Mexican.	United States.		Local Mexican.	United States.
Milk:			Milkmaid—Continued.		
Eagle.....	\$0.45	\$0.17	Evaporated cream.....	\$0.28	\$0.10
Cream, St. Charles.....	.30	.11	Natural milk.....	.28	.10
Milkmaid (Blue Label).....	.35	.14	Coffee and milk.....	.50	.19
Milkmaid (Black Label).....	.40	.16	Chocolate and milk.....	.50	.19
Milkmaid:			Nestle co.coa.....	1.25	.46
Thick cream.....	.65	.21	Nestle Food.....	.80	.30

These prices appear comparatively low at present.

The Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. does not advertise in either of the two local vernacular newspapers. There is forwarded a copy of an advertisement, with its translation, that is printed daily in the Peking Gazette, Peking, so that the company's style of advertisement may be shown. The trade-mark or "chop," which is essential for fixing the Chinese mind on a particular brand of goods, is an appropriate girl with two pails.

There appears to be no reason why enterprising American condensed-milk manufacturers should not be able to compete successfully in this market. The article is a food product, a demand for which exists and can be increased enormously among the prosperous Chinese of this part of Kwangtung Province, which is supplied through Swatow. A certain amount of patience, the expenditure of some money for advertising purposes, and courage to bear a "cut-rate" campaign that may be inaugurated by competitors already in the field, are all that are needed. The market exists, and there is a

firm established here willing to represent an American house in this district. This firm solicits correspondence on the subject.

[The address of the firm will be furnished and the copy of the advertisement may be seen on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 68870.]

CONVERSION OF IRISH PEAT INTO MANURE.

[Consul Wesley Frost, Cork (Queenstown), Oct. 26.]

Irish agriculturists are greatly interested in the alleged discovery of a method of converting ordinary peat into a highly concentrated fertilizer by a simple and inexpensive bacterial treatment. The discoverer is Prof. W. B. Bottomley, of the Royal Botanic Society, and his experiments have been indorsed by many British scientists and organizations of high reputation. Prof. Bottomley's principle is that bacteria facilitate the chemical processes connected with plant growth, and the peat bacterial culture immensely facilitates food absorption by vegetables and other farm crops. He has exhibited specimens of mature potatoes grown in seven weeks by the use of the peat fertilizer, and states that an acre of land treated with 1 ton of the peat manure has produced 41 per cent more potatoes than an acre treated with 80 tons of ordinary farm manure. The manufacture of the peat fertilizer is so simple that it is being carried on by a man and a boy.

The British Board of Agriculture is not yet convinced that the value of the new manure has been demonstrated on a broad scale, and consequently has declined to take it over. A commercial company is partially organized, but Prof. Bottomley is anxious to have a national committee formed which will utilize his product at once. The council of the Royal Botanic Society is taking steps toward the formation of such a committee.

The peat supply of Ireland has been much reduced during the past half century, and if cut for manufacture into fertilizer on a large scale there is some question whether the raw material would hold out for more than a few years.

BRAZIL'S PURCHASES OF FOREIGN COAL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 19.]

American participation in the coal trade of Brazil since the beginning of the present European war is disclosed by the following table, made up from statistics gathered at the various ports of this Republic:

Months.	From United States.	Total Imports.	Months.	From United States.	Total Imports.
1914.	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>	1915.	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>
August.....	5,387	100,139	March.....	26,684	90,156
September.....	55,349	116,910	April.....	34,141	115,450
October.....	32,412	100,546	May.....	61,428	128,816
November.....	25,277	82,539	June.....	73,449	111,579
December.....	19,620	104,368	July.....	101,394	126,139
			August.....	89,576	118,749
1915.			Total.....	561,150	1,346,147
January.....	19,360	89,261			
February.....	17,073	61,495			

Of the imports during the 13 months under review Rio de Janeiro took 918,795 tons, Santos 131,895, Pernambuco 94,241, Bahia 58,070, Para 45,793, and Rio Grande 44,902 tons.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

CANADA.

[Customs Memorandum No. 1965B, Nov. 5, 1915.]

Temporary Admission of Tourists' Automobiles.

The provisions regarding the temporary admission into Canada of tourists' automobiles (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 1, pp. 21-22, and No. 3, p. 92) have been amended as follows:

When a nonresident owner of an automobile manufactured abroad desires to bring such a machine into Canada for a stay of not more than 10 days, he shall in all cases report at the customhouse at the frontier port in Canada and present a certificate to the Collector of Customs who, if satisfied that the machine is imported in good faith, may admit the same without formal entry, and may issue a certificate, in duplicate, the original to be given to the owner, who shall present it to the collector at the port of departure from Canada.

The new provision is an extension of the permission granted under the former regulations, which allowed temporary free admission of automobiles for a period not exceeding seven days. The following is a facsimile of the certificate to be signed by tourists taking machines into Canada:

REPORT AND CERTIFICATE

No.....

TOURISTS' AUTOMOBILES AND OUTFIT

Imported at the port of....., 191.....

Marks and numbers.	Description of articles.	Value. \$	Rate.	Duty. \$	Remarks re exportation.
.....	Automobile.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Manufactured by.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Manufacturer's No.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Number of cylinders.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Touring or runabout.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Color.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	New York or other State license No.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Provincial license No.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Outfit (and extra parts), viz:.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....
.....

Owner's name.....

Resident outside of Canada at.....

I, the undersigned,....., the owner of the automobile and outfit above described, do certify that the foregoing statement truly sets forth the description and values of the automobile and outfit imported by or on behalf of the owner above named who is only a temporary visitor in Canada and resides outside of Canada as above stated; that the said owner is not connected with any automobile business; that the machine is not to be used for any commercial or business pursuits whatever while in Canada, and shall be exported from Canada within 10 days from the date of this report.

[Date stamp.]

Signature.....

Permission is granted to use the above automobile and outfit for touring purposes in Canada under the conditions above stated.

....., Collector.

NOTE.—This certificate to be retained by the owner and presented to the collector of customs at the port of exit, who will note exportation of machine and mail to collector of customs at port of entry.

CERTIFICATE RESPECTING EXPORTATION.

I,..... (owner or agent), do solemnly declare that the identical automobile and outfit hereinbefore described are now presented for inspection and exportation at the frontier port of.....

[Date stamp.] this..... day of....., 19.....

Signature.....

The above automobile and outfit have been identified to my satisfaction and have been exported through this port.

Signature....., Customs Officer.

[Consul Harry A. Conant, Windsor, Ontario, Nov. 17, 1915.]

Commencing November 9, 1915, American tourists traveling in Canada in automobiles will be allowed to stay 10 days without giving bond for the reexportation of their cars, instead of 7 days as under the regulations in effect during the last few years.

The collector of customs at Windsor believes that the change will result in an increase in the number of American tourists entering Canada, and will offset the increased license fees for automobiles that went into effect at the beginning of 1915.

During 1914, when the fee was fixed on the flat-rate plan, 3,200 licenses were issued to American citizens at the port of Windsor, according to the statement of the local collector of customs. It was estimated by the Canadian Government, after an investigation, that each automobile carrying tourists from the United States contained on an average four passengers. The daily expense of each passenger was placed at \$5, so that the approximate daily amount spent by American tourists entering Canada by way of Windsor was \$64,000.

The new license fee, based on horse power, resulted in a decrease in the number of licenses issued by the customs officers at Windsor to 1,800 for the current year. The revenue derived by Ontario business houses from tourists was cut in two this year, and the new license fees are blamed for this loss.

DENMARK.

[Manchester Guardian, Oct. 26, 1915.]

Restrictions on Exports.

An arrangement has been made in Denmark whereby the staple exports of that country, of which Great Britain has been a heavy consumer, are not to be entirely diverted from their normal destinations, because of unusual economic conditions occasioned by the war. The following explanation of the situation as regards exports was furnished by the Danish Agricultural Commissioner in London:

The difficulty of keeping up the trade with England arose from the fact that from September onward the Germans and Austrians have been anxious to buy the butter at a shilling a pound higher price than could be realized here. An order was issued on the 11th instant by the Danish Minister of Justice prohibiting the export of butter except through such firms as were authorized by the Minister of Agriculture and on conditions prescribed. Only those firms will be authorized which give a declaration to a joint committee of the trade and the dairy associations that they will divide their exports between the markets to the west and to the south in a proportion fixed by the joint committee, and will send a signed declaration with each consignment stating the quantity and destination. These declarations, collected by the customs, will enable the joint committee to check the export and to see that the prescribed proportion comes here. A similar arrangement was made in March with regard to Danish bacon. Although 60 per cent higher prices can be realized in other markets for both bacon and butter, by far the larger part of the bacon comes here, and it is hoped that the butter will soon again come here in the same proportion. It is described as a very uncommercial and extraordinary arrangement, necessitated by the state of war, involving a very heavy weekly sacrifice on the part of the Danes, but made for the purpose of maintaining trade with the old customers and for other ulterior reasons.

NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 6, 1915.]

Tariff Changes.

According to a telegram received from the American Consul General at Auckland November 8, 1915, the recently proposed changes in

the New Zealand customs tariff (referred to in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 21, 1915) have been enacted with certain modifications and, under the provisions of a previous resolution, are to be effective from August 27, 1915.

As shown in the table below, electrical machinery and appliances imported from countries subject to the general tariff, including the United States, are subject to increased duties, and chassis for motor vehicles, formerly admitted free, are now dutiable, while the rates on bicycles, motorcycles, and fittings therefor have been reduced. The proposed duty on mineral oils was not adopted. Besides certain changes in the classification of spirits, oils, bicycle fittings, and materials for the manufacture of carriages, wagons, and motor vehicles, the following changes in rates have been made, and it is stated in the telegram from the Consul General at Auckland that a general surtax of 1 per cent ad valorem is to be imposed, presumably applying to all imports, free as well as dutiable. The preferential rates are limited to imports from the United Kingdom and certain British colonies.

Tariff No.	Articles.*	New rates.		Old rates.	
		General.	British preferential.	General.	British preferential.
	Cordials, bitters, liqueurs, spirits, and spirituous mixtures and flavoring essences, and fruits preserved with alcohol ^b (tariff Nos. 30, 32, 40, 45, 47, 48, 49, 53, 64), per proof or liquid gallon, according to the case.	17s. Per cent.	17s. Per cent.	16s. Per cent.	16s. Per cent.
169	Electrical machinery and appliances, including generators, motors, lamps, and transformers.	20	10	15	10
170	Bicycles, tricycles, motor cycles, side cars, and parts thereof, not specified.	20	10	30	20
ex199	Motor vehicles for road traffic, not specified, including motor cars and motor carriages, and bodies for motor vehicles.	20	10	20	20
	Chassis.	20	10	Free.	Free.
262	Fittings for bicycles, tricycles, and motor cycles (including handlebars, plain forgings and stampings, rims not bored, spokes, etc.).	10	Free.	20	Free.
385	Gas, hot-air, and oil engines of all kinds.	20	10	20	Free.

* Rubber tires, solid and pneumatic, for vehicles of all kinds, including motor cycles and bicycles continue exempt from duty.

^b Fruits preserved with alcohol are subject to an additional duty of 25 per cent ad valorem.

MOTION-PICTURE SITUATION IN COSTA RICA.

[Consul C. Donaldson, Port Limon, Oct. 5.]

French and Italian films are almost universally in use at the motion-picture theaters of Port Limon and district. However, it is patent to any observer that when, at rare intervals, an American film is exhibited the general public prefers it to those of European production; yet the latter have the "right of way," and either on account of cheapness or because of prejudice, are about the only films seen. As a result of this disregard of public opinion the motion-picture business is falling off, and now an exhibition only once or twice a week fails to attract an audience and the theaters are almost empty.

The custom in this country has been for one firm [whose address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 67737] to import all the films, which afterwards are shown in turn in the different theaters in Costa Rica.

VENEZUELA'S TRADE IN REFINED SUGAR.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 18.]

The Venezuelan import tariff, with all surtaxes added, taxes muscovado sugar at the rate of \$3.42, and white or refined sugar at \$10.27 per 100 pounds, gross weight. The retail price is 25 cents per kilo or approximately 12 cents per pound, for the domestic product, which is fairly white but lumpy. Importations of refined sugar were 147,000 pounds for 1913 and 49,492 pounds for the six months ended June 30, 1914.

As there are 2,800,000 people in Venezuela, it is seen that in the exceptionally prosperous year 1913, the per capita importation of refined sugar was only one-eighteenth of a pound. Apart from the purchases of diplomatic officers, the Government, and others entitled to customs exemptions, it was confined to cut loaf, confectioners' and fancy grades not produced locally, as, in ordinary grades, the country makes more than is needed for consumption, and the high retail price is maintained only by a combination of producers that export all surplus. As five modern centrals are about to begin operations there is no likelihood of increased importations.

A great deal of sugar is consumed in Venezuela, but nearly all of it is in the form of the brown cakes known as "papelon." Some of these are exported to England, but there seems to be no demand for them elsewhere abroad. Trinidad ships some brown sugar to the eastern ports of the Republic. It is not believed that there is any sugar trade in Venezuela large enough to interest a manufacturer. It is purchased in small lots by all wholesale grocers, nearly always through export houses in New York, which give from four to six months' credit.

[Lists of wholesale grocers in La Guaira, Caracas, Carupano, Cumana, and Ciudad Bolivar may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 63035. Up-to-date lists of business houses in La Guaira and Caracas, Venezuela, may also be found in the "Supplement to the Trade Directory of South America," recently issued by the Bureau. This publication is for sale at 5 cents per copy by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or by the branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

The ore bodies in British Columbia, it is found, extend to a greater depth than would have been thought possible 10 years ago. Vice Consul Woodward of Vancouver reports that the Rossland mines and mines in the coast district have been developed to a depth of 2,200 feet, the Slocan mines to more than 1,000 feet, a mine on Texada Island to 1,500 feet, and numerous others to considerable depths.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the **Bureau and its branch offices.**]

Codfish, No. 19364.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that two firms in that country are desirous of being placed in communication with exporters of codfish, with a view to importing the commodity. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred. Cable addresses are also given.

Tape No. 19365.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a man in the United Kingdom wishes to be placed in communication with manufacturers of tape to be used in making hospital tents. A sample of the tape desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 860.)

Wool grease, No. 19366.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that he is in receipt of a letter from a firm in South Africa stating that it desires to be placed in communication with American importers of wool grease. It is stated that 1,600 to 2,000 pounds a month can be supplied.

Ferryboat, No. 19367.—A report from an American consular officer in Honduras states that a man in his district desires to purchase a small steamboat. The boat would have to be shipped in sections to Puerto Cortes, then transported overland, over the roughest kind of mountain roads, and reassembled at point of destination. It must be of light draft, to permit landings at shallow points, and is to be used to transport passengers, stock, and freight. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred.

Laundry soap, No. 19368.—A firm in Italy wishes to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of laundry soap with a view to securing an exclusive agency. References are furnished. Correspondence may be in English.

Device to prevent pipes from freezing, No. 19369.—An American consular officer in Chile reports that an engineer in charge of waterworks desires samples, illustrations, prices, and catalogues of devices for preventing the freezing and bursting of water pipes. The devices are to be used principally on small house connections about 1 inch or less in diameter, in the installation of water meters. It is stated that the temperature seldom goes below 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

Machinery, construction materials, etc., No. 19370.—A report from an American consular officer in Chile states that a firm desires to act as representative or agent of manufacturers of machinery, construction materials, oils, rice, and food products. Correspondence and literature should be in Spanish or German. References are furnished.

Caoutchouc articles, leather bags, etc., No. 19371.—A commercial agent in charge of the Chicago branch of the Bureau reports that a company in France desires catalogues, prices, and terms for sole agency of caoutchouc articles for medicinal use, women's mesh and leather bags, and pocketbooks.

Paper, hardware, etc., No. 19372.—A report from a commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce states that an American residing in Chile desires to act as representative of firms manufacturing paper, hardware, or any other line. It is stated that he has had considerable experience in dealing with Spanish people. References are given.

Post cards, No. 19373.—An American consular officer in France reports that a sales agent in France desires to purchase picture post cards with or without texts in the French language. "Beauty types" of women drawn by popular American artists sell well. The cards should be artistic in subject, coloring, and finish, as well as of good stock.

Cotton, silk, and woolen goods, etc., No. 19374.—A report from an American consular officer states that a man in Persia desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of cotton, silk, and woolen goods, boots, and shoes. Samples, prices, and terms should be sent at once. Correspondence may be in English.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 279 Washington, D. C., Monday, November 29

1915

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CONSULAR WORK SELLS AMERICAN GOODS IN DENMARK.

As the result of Trade Opportunities forwarded by the consulate general at Copenhagen and other trade-extension efforts by that office, \$7,000 worth of American motor equipment, \$2,000 worth of American plows, 6,000 tons of steel wire, \$2,500 worth of wax, \$5,000 worth of coffee, sugar, and cocoa, \$380,000 worth of cottonseed cake, and \$6,000 worth of leather goods have been sold in that Danish port. Letters received by Consul General E. D. Winslow tell of other trade that has been secured by exporters in the United States through information supplied by him but do not specify the particular articles dealt in.

DROUGHT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Oct. 6.]

While much has been written concerning droughts in South Africa it is extremely doubtful if conditions in certain sections of the Port Elizabeth district ever were worse than at present. Many thousand cattle and small stock have already been lost and the situation is daily becoming worse. Unless relief is experienced soon in the driest sections, there will be practically no stock left.

Probably cattle have felt the effects least of all, and sheep are supposed to have suffered less than ostriches and Angora goats. Last week Mr. Hurndall, president of the Angora Goat Farmers' Association, estimated that 400,000 head of small stock had perished in the Jansenville and Aberdeen districts alone. Ostriches have suffered heavily, but the supply of feathers on the local market is quite sufficient to supply all demands. The welfare of the farmer means the welfare of the whole district. Consequently, with decreased production and slightly inferior grades, it is difficult to be optimistic regarding the business outlook.

Rains have fallen in Port Elizabeth and vicinity and in certain country districts during the last few days, but apparently the worst-stricken places have not had rains. At present the weather indications are for further rains, and it is possible that the drought may yet be broken before it is too late.

EXPORTS FROM SHANGHAI TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul C. E. Gauss, detailed as vice consul, Shanghai, China, Oct. 12.]

The exports from Shanghai to the United States, as declared at this consulate general during the half-year ended June 30, 1915, amounted to \$12,459,656, United States currency, an increase of more than \$4,000,000, compared with the figures for the corresponding period of 1914. Of this \$4,000,000 increase, however, more than \$2,000,000 is accounted for by gold shipments from the banks to the United States; \$840,557 represents shipments of crude antimony and antimony regulus, and almost \$500,000 is for shipments of indigo.

The statistics for July and August, 1915, show equally high increases over the shipments for 1914, July figures having reached \$3,109,948, compared with \$1,365,345 in 1914, and those for August, \$3,598,305, compared with \$1,510,044. These increases also are due to gold shipments, amounting to about \$1,500,000, and to dyestuff shipments, equalling \$800,000 in two months.

During the eight months ended August 31, more than \$3,700,000 in gold bars left Shanghai for the United States; nearly \$1,000,000 in antimony shipments, and \$1,300,000 in indigo.

Various Interesting Increases in Shipments.

There were other interesting increases during the first half of the year, as, for instance, in bristle shipments, which increased from \$38,068 in 1914 to \$90,671 in 1915; egg albumen shipments, which reached \$275,000 in 1915, as compared with \$157,779; and large increases in the shipments of musk, peanuts, skins, sausage casings, bean oil, and pongee silks.

There were decreased shipments of eggs, which in 1914 were valued at \$355,571 and in 1915 at \$77,768. This is accounted for partly by the lack of shipping facilities and partly by the fact that the egg shipments from China are understood not to have been a complete success in the United States. Cottonseed-oil shipments fell off from \$480,615 in 1914 to \$258,865 in 1915. Tea shipments fell off during the first half year, as compared with 1914, but there were increased shipments in August.

Wool shipments increased from \$617,278 to \$1,022,735, but there were no other increases or decreases of particular importance.

KARACHI MAY BUY AMERICAN ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES.

[Consul James Oliver Laing, Karachi, India, Oct. 7.]

Conferences have been held here with a representative of a local firm, with the object of clearing up certain banking and credit matters. The firm has also been supplied with catalogues as a means of obtaining a possible \$50,000 order for American electrical supplies. The house intends taking up this business on a large scale, and probably will order in the United States. This electrical branch has not developed sufficiently to be called a success, but a firm so wealthy and influential, showing an interest in American goods, may produce important results.

[The name of the firm mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69054.]

DEMAND FOR AMERICAN SACKS FOR SHIPPING ORE.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Chile, Oct. 20.]

There is considerable delay here in securing supplies of jute sacks from India, such as are used to ship concentrates of tin, and the price of metal sacks has risen considerably. It has been suggested that possibly supplies of sacks made from cotton could be obtained in the United States, to serve acceptably for shipping tin ores, etc. Important characteristics of a sample forwarded are the close weave and weight, which give the requisite strength for shipping heavy ores and prevent leakage of fine ores; the method of finishing, which leaves the small opening at the middle of the top, for the insertion of the funnel through which the sack is filled, and the strings left for finishing the closing of the filled bag. Cotton bags to compete with the jute should be finished the same way.

The tin concentrates are as fine as sand in some cases, and heavy. The size of the bags should be that of the sample, although sizes one or two inches smaller in width and length, as well as some a little larger, are also used. The Bolivian coat of arms is generally printed on one side, for shipments from that country, though in some cases it is omitted. If the United States can supply an article like that submitted, or one of the same style and size, of some other fabric, which will serve the purpose, samples with prices should be sent to addresses which are forwarded.

[The sample mentioned, which is of jute and was made and finished in India, will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68676. The list of firms in Chile and Bolivia using such bags may also be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices under the same file number.]

ORANGE AND RAISIN MARKETS SOUGHT BY ADVERTISING.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Nov. 20.]

The California Associated Raisin Co., which for the past two years has been carrying on a vigorous advertising campaign in Canada and the United States, with the object of popularizing the sale and consumption of raisins, comprises more than 6,000 growers. The California Orange Growers have carried on a similar campaign in Canada. This cooperative advertising of raisins and oranges, by voluntary action on the part of the growers, marks a step in the direction of obtaining new markets for their products. It will, doubtless, be a growing factor in the marketing of other American goods which were not considered, heretofore, advertising possibilities.

CUSTOMHOUSE BROKERS IN RIO DE JANEIRO.

A list of customhouse brokers in Rio de Janeiro, together with the names and addresses of their respective bondsmen, has been forwarded by Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk from that city. The list is published in the supplement of the Boletim da Alfandega do Rio de Janeiro, and will be loaned to interested persons upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69066.

AMERICAN GOODS POPULAR IN WESTERN GREECE.

[Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Greece, Oct. 23.]

American goods, which are being imported into the Patras district in rapidly increasing quantities, are almost without exception giving satisfaction to both importers and consumers. Practically every week some merchant here reports to the consulate the excellent quality of some American product which he is handling. Among the articles approved by the local trade within the past few weeks are staves, lumber, sugar, hosiery, cabots, antiseptic cotton and gauze, sulphate of copper, and refrigerators. Many other lines are apparently giving no less satisfaction.

Staves and Lumber Imported—Kinds of Wood.

The staves imported are usually of a reddish wood, apparently beech. They are a finished product, except that they are not beveled and grooved for heading, and are of uniform grade, without flaws or knots. They are superior to the European stave, which formerly held this market, and are more satisfactory to importers, since they are of lighter weight and hence pay less duty at the customs, and being practically finished call for far less work by local coopers.

The lumber imported has been of white pine or spruce. American exporters have scored a good point on this market by having the lumber prepared in the exact dimensions called for here. The result is that it requires much less labor to manufacture the cases, for which the lumber is used to meet demands of the export currant market.

Cotton Goods and Hosiery—Antiseptic Cotton and Gauze.

American cabots, the importation of which began here in 1914, are pronounced by local dealers superior to anything in that line seen on this market. Trade in them is steadily growing. It is hoped that they are merely the forerunners of American cotton goods in general.

American hosiery appeared here this year for the first time, but may now be seen in more than one haberdasher's windows. The retailers are quick to call the attention of their customers to the new American goods. Imports thus far have been of a fairly good grade of hose and half hose, together with some coarser grades. One of the leading haberdashers stated a few days ago that his first order had been sold off in a most satisfactory way, and he had sent in orders for a further supply.

American antiseptic cotton and gauze also made their appearance here for the first time this year. Both are proving their excellence. The proprietor of one of the oldest and most important pharmacies, commenting a few days ago on his American stock, stated: "The American cotton and gauze which we are now handling are superior to anything of the kind we have ever had, although we have handled these articles from practically all the leading European markets."

Merchants Learning That American Prices are Satisfactory.

American goods, with a few conspicuous and some inconspicuous exceptions, have until recently been unknown on the markets of this district, which had their well-established channels of trade, and had been accustomed for years to secure supplies of various sorts from the same old sources. Until recent years, communication with the United States was indirect and slow. Merchants were accustomed to look

upon that country much, for instance, as they are disposed to look upon Japan now—as a country too remote to be seriously considered in the purchase of their supplies. There seems to have been a deep-rooted idea that America was a very dear country. It is interesting to note the surprise with which the local merchants frequently learn, by actual test, that American articles are quite as reasonable and as good, sometimes better, than those they have been accustomed to get from other markets.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	...do....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	...do....	903 G Ulrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(*)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

COAT AND HAT HOOKS FOR SOUTH AMERICA.

Special Agent S. S. Brill, who has recently returned to the United States from a tour of South America during which he investigated, on behalf of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the market for hardware in the southern Republics, brought with him samples of coat and hat hooks that are finding a sale there. One, designated sample No. 137, is a japanned hook the cost price of which is 22 cents United States currency and the selling list price 32 cents per dozen. Another, sample No. 138, is a fancy nickeled hook costing 59 cents and selling for 75 cents per dozen. Other styles which have quite a large sale are No. 223, a cast-iron plain japanned coat and hat hook priced at 8½ cents per dozen, and No. 222, also of cast-iron japanned, but with porcelain knobs, priced at 12 cents per dozen.

These sample hooks are on display in the New York office of the Bureau, where they may be inspected by interested firms. Ask for the numbers given above under file No. 692.

Consul John A. Gamon at Puerto Cortes, Honduras, reports that during the month of October the rate of exchange prevailing in that port was 35½ cents gold for the Central American silver peso, or a premium of 181.69 for the American gold dollar.

JAPANESE TOYS AGAIN SOUGHT BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

[Extract from Japan Advertiser, Oct. 21, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

The Japanese toy trade has for some time been in bad straits. This has in turn caused the awakening of Japanese manufacturers to the necessity of introducing an improvement both in make and quality. As a result, Japanese toys are again in demand abroad, especially since the outbreak of the war. The supply from certain European sources for the United States, Australia, England, and the South Seas having practically stopped, these markets are now asking for Japanese substitutes, and a considerable number of cases is being shipped by every steamer. Many orders are arriving, but since the prices are comparatively low, only about half of these orders are being filled.

Apart from the question of price, the weak point of the Japanese industry is still its small scale, and any big order can not be met at one time, even by a combination of factories. Most factories are at present busy in making Christmas toys for export. In an ordinary year Christmas orders would long ere this have been placed and completed, but this year orders have been delayed, and the factories are still busy. Especially is this the case in Tokyo, Yokohama, Shidzuoka, and Nagoya, where wages are higher by 15 to 20 per cent. Moreover, the raw materials are high in price, and the manufactured toys are dearer by 20 to 24 per cent, especially if made of celluloid, metal, and colored paper, these materials being now 40 to 60 per cent higher than at this time last year.

As to the designs, the various war subjects, such as miniature aeroplanes, guns, torpedo boats, dirigibles, and soldiers, find most favor, as was the case last year. At present the demand is largest in the United States, where it is mostly met by the Japanese. It is said that various export firms in Yokohama are receiving orders covering several months to come.

COSTA RICA SEEKS FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS.

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San José, Costa Rica, Oct. 9.]

Flower and vegetable seeds are now being imported into San José principally from the United States. Before the European war, probably 50 per cent of the vegetable seeds came from France, but most of the flower seeds have been imported from the United States for many years. The lighter seeds, both flower and vegetable, are often brought in by parcel post.

The leading importer here buys chiefly in bulk, and uses his own labels and packets containing cultural instructions in Spanish. The larger jobbers do not carry seeds in stock, but import for their customers as ordered. The largest importer carries a big stock of flower, vegetable, and grass seeds on hand at all times, and purchases some of his varieties from points as far away as Australia.

Prices f. o. b. New York or New Orleans on larger shipments are well understood by local dealers and c. i. f. prices are unnecessary. Many of the dealers here buy for cash, to take advantage of liberal discounts.

[Lists of importers of seeds in San José, Puntarenas, and Cartago, Costa Rica, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67738.]

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he received in stock during the week ended November 20 the following new United States Government publications, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Educational Directory, 1915-1916, Education Bureau Bulletin 43, 1915.—List of educational institutions in the United States, including universities, colleges, high schools, normal schools, kindergartens, public schools for the blind, deaf, feeble-minded, etc., with list of officials. Price, paper, 20¢.

Exercises with Plants and Animals for Southern Rural Schools, Agriculture Department Bulletin 305.—Outline of a course of study in plant and animal life in rural schools, arranged by months. Price, paper, 15¢.

Features of the Sheep Industries of United States, New Zealand, and Australia Compared, Agriculture Department Bulletin 313.—Covers general conditions of sheep industry in New Zealand, Australia, and United States, embracing flock management, breeds, wool, sheep-raisers' organizations, etc. Price, paper, 10¢.

The Bonavist, Lablab, or Hyacinth Bean, Agriculture Department Bulletin 318.—Covering cultural characteristics, seed production, varietal characters, and botanical names. Price, paper, 5¢.

Insect and Fungous Enemies of the Grape East of the Rocky Mountains, Farmers' Bulletin 284, reprint.—Embraces principal insect enemies of the grape, with detailed descriptions of the diseases and methods of extermination, including insecticides, fungicides, spraying, etc. Price, paper, 5¢.

Grasshoppers and Their Control on Sugar Beets and Truck Crops, Farmers' Bulletin 621.—Including general description of the grasshopper problem west of the Mississippi River, with description of species, habits, natural enemies, and methods of control. Price, paper, 5¢.

Handling and Shipping Citrus Fruits in the Gulf States, Farmers' Bulletin 696.—Practical work on the transportation of citrus fruits, including causes of decay in transit, prevention of losses, harvesting, packing, and shipping operations, field handling, packing-house handling, refrigeration, precooling, etc. Price, paper, 5¢.

Shippers' Export Declarations and Export Procedure, issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce—Covers a reprint of Treasury Decision 35708, with the addition of an explanatory introduction by Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Price, paper, 5¢.

Uniform System of Accounts for Gas Corporations and Electric Corporations in the District of Columbia, as prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission in accordance with the act of Congress approved March 3, 1909, Public Law 303, first issued 1909, reprint—Prescribed system of accounts for gas and electric corporations. Price, paper, 10¢.

Shot Firing in Coal Mines by Electricity Controlled from Outside, Mines Technical Paper 108—Covering general description of outside shot-firing system and detail description of some systems now in use. Price, paper, 5¢.

Mine-Ventilation Stoppings, with Especial Reference to Coal Mines in Illinois, Bureau of Mines Bulletin 99, prepared by Bureau of Mines under cooperative agreement with the Illinois State Geological Survey and the Department of Mining Engineering of the University of Illinois. Price, paper, 10¢.

Portland Cement Materials and Industry in the United States, Geological Survey Bulletin 522, reprint—Covers the Portland-cement industry in general, raw materials, Portland cement resources of United States, etc. Price, cloth, 65¢.

Excavation Machinery Used in Land Drainage, Agriculture Department Bulletin 300—Practical work on machines for dredging, digging, etc., covering development of excavating machinery, and detailed description of certain types of dredges. Price, paper, 15¢.

A prominent New York manufacturer has notified the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of his success in securing trial orders for his wares in both the Canary Islands and the Azores through the efforts of the American consuls stationed there.

SIX MONTHS SIAMESE TRADE SHOWS DECREASE.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Sept. 23.]

The total value of all imports into Siam through the port of Bangkok for the first six months of 1915 was \$13,878,105, against \$16,488,883 for the corresponding months of 1914, a decrease of \$2,610,778 for the current year. This decrease was accounted for by the loss of \$2,077,477 in the class of general merchandise, \$77,685 in alcoholic liquors, and \$455,610 in treasure.

The total exports for the January-June period of 1915 were valued at \$19,741,379, compared with \$23,178,349 for the first six months of 1914, a decline of \$3,436,970 for 1915, the decrease amounting to \$2,452,947 in rice, \$765,624 in teakwood, and \$217,970 in other exports.

The falling off in imports was attributed mainly to the continued low price of rice, which left the Siamese farmer no surplus with which to buy foreign goods. The general advance in prices and freights also caused importers to restrict their purchases abroad, and finally the lack of adequate and suitable shipping facilities greatly retarded the import business. The results were especially unfavorable in the case of imports from the United States, for the reason that there are no direct shipping lines between the United States and Siam, and on account of the war the customary transshipment of goods at British ports became very difficult.

Destination of Rice and Teak Exports.

The rice and meal exports for the six months under review amounted to 811,797 short tons, of which 140,779 tons were shipped to European ports and 671,018 tons to other ports, against 182,284 tons to Europe and 536,510 tons to other ports during the corresponding months of 1914.

Of the total teakwood exports of 18,172 tons for the first half of 1915, the shipments to Europe amounted to 1,769 tons; to India and Colombo, 12,123; and to other destinations, 725 tons.

During the first six months of the current year the Siamese products invoiced at the American consulate general for shipment to the United States were: Hides, 35,917 pounds, valued at \$4,465 United States gold; 56,000 pounds of tungsten ore, value, \$12,851; 620,731 pounds of white pepper, value, \$100,729; and 14,616,332 pounds of rice, value, \$219,419.

[An article on Siam's frontier trade with Burma was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 24, 1915.]

INDORSEMENT OF INSURED AND C. O. D. PARCELS.

[Announcement to postmasters by the United States Post Office Department.]

In complying with the instructions contained in article 8, page 80, of the July, 1915, Postal Guide, it is not sufficient when a parcel is presented for acceptance for insurance or collection on delivery merely to inquire whether it contains fragile or perishable matter or to accept the statement of the person presenting the parcel that it contains "Merchandise." Postal employees must ascertain in each instance what articles the parcel contains, and, if fragile or perishable matter is inclosed, shall cause the parcel and each coupon of the insurance tag to be properly marked. The question of whether a parcel shall be indorsed is to be determined by the postmaster or postal employee accepting the article and not left to the discretion of the sender.

CHILE'S DEMAND FOR ROOFING AND WALL BOARD.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 22.]

Corrugated iron, plain or galvanized, is used almost entirely as roofing in Chile. The import statistics for 1913 give some idea of the amount of this material used in the country.

Imports of corrugated iron in sheets, not painted or galvanized, were: From Great Britain, 1,063 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.62 pounds); Germany, 30 tons; Belgium, 69 tons; United States, 1,202 tons; total, 2,364 tons.

Imports of corrugated iron sheets, galvanized, were: From Great Britain, 13,061 metric tons; Germany, 116 tons; Belgium, 4 tons; United States, 15,553 tons; Argentina, 4 tons; total, 28,738 tons.

Galvanized, corrugated iron now sells for about \$6, United States currency, per quintal of 101.4 pounds, in Valparaiso, duty paid (duty, \$0.99 U. S. currency per 100 pounds). Before the war the price of galvanized corrugated iron was \$4.90, United States currency, per quintal. The cash discount on these prices is 8 per cent.

There are two reasons for this general use of corrugated iron for roofing purposes—first, because, as this is a country subject to periodical earthquakes, a light roofing is needed; second, because the heavy rains in central and southern Chile make necessary a roofing which will give substantial protection.

To introduce any other type of roofing in Chile would be difficult. Possibly the port through which it would be most easy to introduce prepared roofing would be Antofagasta, as that northern section of Chile has little or no rainfall.

Opportunity for Sale of Wall Board for Ceilings.

Chile offers an excellent opportunity for the introduction and sale of wall board for ceilings. The type of ceiling generally found here is of matched wood. Earthquakes make it impossible to use plaster ceilings. The lumber employed for ceilings is partly of native production and partly imported from the United States and Canada. A wall-board ceiling should have an advantage over the wooden ceiling, both in the matter of lightness of weight and ease of placing. Its cost in this country would depend on the rate of duty charged on it by the customhouse authorities. This rate, as far as I can learn, has not yet been set. Unplaned pine lumber pays a duty of \$0.066 United States currency per square meter.

To introduce wall board for use in making ceilings it is suggested that the manufacturers take the matter up with houses which handle building material in Chile and have offices in New York. These companies could give a practical opinion on the subject, and also establish the customhouse rate by presentation of samples, and would be in a position to place and handle such merchandise throughout Chile.

The present general type of construction calls for the use of wooden studding, filled in with adobe bricks for all inner and to a considerable extent also for outer walls in houses.

[A list of the companies that handle building material in Chile, and also have offices in New York, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68270.]

PROFITS OF INDIA'S COTTON MILLS.

[Consul Carl F. Delchman, Bombay, Oct. 15.]

India ranks sixth among the world's cotton yarn manufacturers, having 6,800,000 spindles. Three-fourths of these are in the Bombay Presidency. The following review of the textile industry of Bombay for the year 1914 by the Times of India is therefore of much interest:

[In the figures for data the terms "lakhs" equal one hundred thousand, and "crores" ten million, and the figures are expressed with decimal fractions. The price is expressed in annas, which is the equivalent of an English penny or 2 cents United States currency. The Indian bales of cotton weigh 392 pounds.]

We have in India about 271 mills, about 68 lakhs spindles, 104,000 looms, employing 260,000 hands, and consuming about 2,140,000 bales of cotton. We produced last year 68.27 crore pounds of yarn. Out of this 24.50 crores went for the production of 27.43 crore pounds of cloth, 19.79 crore pounds were exported to foreign countries, leaving a balance of about 23.97 crore pounds for home consumption. In Bombay itself we have 30 lakhs spindles, about 49,000 looms, employing 110,000 hands and consuming 10.78 lakhs bales of cotton.

A Disappointing Year.

The year under review was a disappointing one from every point of view; and there has been a considerable fall in the profits. The total profits came to 89.17 lakhs of rupees, which include commission paid to the agents, 24.75 lakhs. If you exclude commission the net profits come to about 64.42 lakhs of rupees. Out of the above net profits, weaving is responsible for 56.89 lakhs of rupees. You will thus see that the profits earned by the spinning mills are next to nothing. They come to about 7.53 lakhs of rupees, although the David Mills, alone made a net profit of 7.34 lakhs. Taking a group of 15 spinning mills with about 6 lakhs of spindles I find that 2.40 lakhs of spindles earned a profit of 14.17 lakhs of rupees, while the rest of the spindles lost 9.63 lakhs. The most gratifying feature of the result for 1914 is the wage bill, which came to 2.87 crores of rupees. For the purposes of comparison, I will give you the following table, which will show the progress of the industry from a money-making point of view. The profits include agents' commission.

Year.	Profits.	Spindles.	Looms.
1905.....	3.47 crores.....	25.60 lakhs.....	28,000
1906.....	3.14 crores.....	26.14 lakhs.....	28,800
1907.....	1.85 crores.....	26.13 lakhs.....	32,000
1908.....	1.31 crores.....	27.34 lakhs.....	36,000
1909.....	1.21 crores.....	28.00 lakhs.....	39,700
1910.....	.60 lakh.....	28.24 lakhs.....	42,000
1911.....	.62 lakh.....	28.60 lakhs.....	42,500
1912.....	2.60 crores.....	28.85 lakhs.....	43,400
1913.....	1.82 crores.....	29.25 lakhs.....	45,280
1914.....	.89 lakh.....	30.09 lakhs.....	49,000

Profits Fall Off.

You will see from the above that there has been a considerable falling off in profits, and I am afraid the year 1915 will be no better; if anything, worse. Several yarn mills have gone into liquidation and a few others will follow. Yarn and cloth have both been disappointing, but the former has been losing ground for years past. It is strange that some of the mills which have gone into liquidation earned good profits in previous years, and at the time of their winding up by voluntary liquidation they had some of the ablest men in Bombay on their boards. In 1905 Bombay exported 6.51 lakhs bales to China; in 1913 we exported 4.05 lakhs bales; and last year we exported 3.24 lakhs bales. The present outlook is far from bright. There has been a sudden rise in cotton, which has jumped up some 75 rupees per sandy (784 pounds) in about six weeks. The American crop, which for the previous season came to 16,000,000 bales, is now reckoned at about 12,000,000 and under. As to the cotton crop in India, although the late rains have materially improved prospects, it is still expected to be a short one. A month ago the estimated stocks of cloth were put down at 2.50 lakhs bales, and

our annual production is computed at 5.5 lakhs bales. Owing to the abnormal rise in cotton, dealers have shown anxiety to clear previously purchased goods, and during the last few weeks it is reckoned that 50,000 bales have been cleared. The stocks of yarn in China, sold and unsold, are reckoned at 1.25 lakhs. There has been a rise of 1½ anna per pound in yarn and about 1 anna in cloth, owing to the rise in the price of cotton; but in spite of this rise there is a distinct loss of one-fourth anna per pound in yarn, while cloth is making a profit of one-half anna per pound. For the year 1914 the shareholders of the yarn mills got a dividend of 4.7 per cent on their capital, while the dividend obtained by the shareholders of the weaving mills came to 5.88 per cent on their paid-up capital.

Japanese Competition.

The wages for 1912 were 2.68 crores per annum; for 1913 they came to 2.47 crores; and for 1914, 2.87 crores of rupees. The excise duty paid by the cloth mills in India at the rate of 3½ per cent came to 24.50 lakhs in 1905; for 1914 it came to 56.33 lakhs. Owing to the war and cessation of imports from enemy countries the Government and the people appear extremely anxious to capture some of their trade. How that can be accomplished in the absence of industries which can not be started in a day, and which could not stand on their legs without some kind of protection, I am not able to see. It is said that Japan is forging ahead. She has practically driven us out of the Chinese market in yarn, and she is bound to monopolize the trade which Germany and Austria are losing. The Government is at the back of the Japanese people.

AMERICAN HUSTLE GAINS DURBAN MOTORCYCLE MARKET.

[Consul William W. Masterson, Durban, Natal, Union of South Africa, Aug. 23.]

The motorcycle is the most popular vehicle in Durban. A larger number of them are now seen on the streets than of motor cars, or even bicycles. Their popularity is enhanced by the side car.

An excellent opportunity is offered for American manufacturers of motorcycles to establish agencies in Natal. About the first of the year an American firm of motorcycle manufacturers established an agency in Durban, and since that time, by advertising in the papers, by hustle, and by reasonable prices, it has succeeded in establishing a remarkably successful trade, until now fully half the motorcycles seen on the streets are of this company's manufacture.

These particular American machines are made to retail at £50 (\$243.33). The agent has informed this consulate that another shipment, consisting of 120 machines, will arrive this month, and that at this time 100 have been delivered and paid for.

This firm of American motorcycle manufacturers has a repair shop in connection with its salesrooms, so that when a part is broken, or becomes worn out, repairs can be made instantly, a necessary convenience in connection with any machine, for any purpose, that is sold abroad.

ITALIAN FOREIGN TRADE OF PRESENT YEAR.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Oct. 28.]

The combined value of the exports and imports of Italy for the first eight months of 1915, according to Italian official statistics, was \$688,507,074. The exports reached a total of \$302,232,369, an increase of \$5,146,644 over the corresponding period of 1914. The imports amounted to \$386,274,705, a decline of \$37,592,224 from those for eight months of the preceding year.

BELFAST MARKET FOR AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD HARDWARE.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Ireland, Oct. 21.]

As the previous source of supply is now cut off, American manufacturers of household hardware would, no doubt, have a fair opportunity to obtain a share of the trade of the Belfast market. Some of the principal articles of household hardware which have been imported into Belfast are:

Enameled wares.—Flat-bottomed kettles, brown, blue, or speckled outside, and white inside, to hold 3, 4, 5, or 6 pints. The cost prices per dozen were: For 6½-inch bottom, \$2.25; 7½-inch bottom, \$2.66; 8-inch bottom, \$3.16; 8½-inch bottom, \$3.53.

Enameled steel stew pans, to cost per dozen: Size 4½ inches, \$0.93; 5½ inches, \$1.03; 6½ inches, \$1.22; 7½ inches, \$1.46; 8 inches, \$1.82; 8½ inches, \$2.31; 9½ inches, \$2.92.

Enameled teapots, seamless, Scotch-pattern spout, electrically welded, plain or speckled outside, white inside: To hold about 2 pints, \$1.95 per dozen; 3 pints, \$2.31; 4 pints, \$2.80.

Enameled basins, to retail as follows: Size 12 inches, \$0.12 each; 13 inches, \$0.16; 14 inches, \$0.20; 15 inches, \$0.24.

Enameled pie dishes, white inside, to retail as follows: Size 8 inches, \$0.61 per dozen; 8½ inches, \$0.73; 9½ inches, \$0.79.

Enameled pie dishes, white inside, were imported to retail at the following prices for the respective sizes: Measuring 10½ inches, \$0.87 per dozen; 11 inches, \$0.93; 11½ inches, \$1.05; 12½ inches, \$1.28.

Enameled milk pans (double), to cost per dozen: To hold 2 pints, \$3.41; 3 pints, \$3.89; 4 pints, \$4.50; 6 pints, \$5.47.

Enameled pails, with bail handle, without covers, costing per dozen: Size, 10½ inches, \$2.19; 11 inches, \$2.56; 12 inches, \$2.92.

Covers for enameled pails, to cost per dozen: Size, 11 inches, \$1.82; 12 inches, \$2.43.

Suggested Change in Style of Goods to be Shipped.

The United States is now sending to this market enameled steel hollow ware, with a granite color both inside and outside, but these particular goods would be more suitable for the trade here were they enameled white inside.

White metal and aluminum.—Tea, dessert, and table spoons and forks of this class are much wanted in this city at present. Tea and dessert spoons of aluminum, now on this market, are greatly in demand. Dessert spoons cost about \$2.92 per gross and teaspoons about \$1.70 and \$1.82 per gross.

Padlocks.—Those similar to the cheap, self-colored spring, with one or two keys, about 2½ inches wide, to cost about \$0.73 per dozen, would sell well in this market.

Wire door mats.—Those of good quality, costing per dozen: Size 24 by 14, \$3.83; 28 by 16, \$4.74; 30 by 18, \$5.35. The cheaper quality cost per dozen: Size 24 by 14, \$2.07; 28 by 16, \$2.56; 30 by 18, \$3.16.

Frying pans.—Those of heavy-gauge steel, tubular handled, cost per dozen: Size 9½ inches, \$1.38; 10½ inches, \$1.56; 11 inches, \$1.70; 12 inches, \$1.91.

Clocks.—The trade here has been in the following: Alarm clocks, to cost from \$3.65 to \$8.76 per dozen; eight-day clocks, to retail from \$2.43 to \$3.04 each; one-day clocks, imitation marble (of wood), to cost about \$1.82 each.

Sundry household articles.—Articles of this class having a ready sale in this market are: Butter prints, butter spades, scrubbing brushes, lanterns, oil lamps, oil-lamp burners, can openers, chair nails, enameled chambers, corkscrews, enameled colanders, white-metal cruets, cup hooks, egg slices, egg whisks, egg spoons, egg timers, hammers, iron spoons, lemon squeezers, potato mashers, garden rakes, saws, scales, scissors, skewers, and saltcellars.

Local Merchants Encourage American Shipments.

Local merchants state that if American manufacturers can deliver these goods in Belfast according to specifications, at approximately the same prices as are herein quoted, there should be a good opening here for the extension of trade in these articles.

Prior to the war European merchants sent representatives to this market about two or three times a year with samples. They generally delivered the bulk of their orders within two months, and payments were usually made on their next journey. They always allowed 2½ per cent discount, with free cases. Their packing was very good, and allowances were at once made in cases of shortage or breakage. Furthermore, these travelers often bought samples in this country, improved on them, and sold them at reduced prices.

If American manufacturers wish to do a direct trade, they should submit samples and quote prices for deliveries at the principal ports in the United Kingdom. Belfast dealers are accustomed to buy through English or Scotch agencies or branches, and they seldom depart from this practice. Owing to the comparatively small quantities in which purchases are usually made, local firms consider it to their advantage to buy in this way rather than to import direct, as they procure quicker deliveries and better credit terms, getting a discount of 5 per cent for one month and 2½ per cent for three months.

[Lists of the principal local firms dealing in household hardware and sundry household articles and of manufacturers' agents for those goods may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68723.]

FREE NIGHT SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO.

[Consul George W. Shotts, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 9.]

Many of the principal cities of the Province of Ontario have organized free night schools for the benefit of the general public. Half the cost for teachers and equipment is paid by the Province and half by the city.

Such night schools have been organized in Sault Ste. Marie, with some 32 classes, each with 15 to 30 pupils. The branches taught here are dressmaking, millinery, cooking, mechanical drawing and shop mathematics, arithmetic and English, electricity, accounting, senior English, senior mathematics, physics and chemistry, and building construction and architectural drawing. The classes in dressmaking and cooking seem to be the most popular, having quite a waiting list of applicants. Millinery, mechanical drawing and shop mathematics, arithmetic, and English come next in popularity.

The instructors in the academic branches are chosen from among the city's legally qualified school-teachers, and those for the industrial branches are selected from the staffs of various successful business firms.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Coal, No. 2793.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer's Office, Customhouse, Norfolk, Va., until December 20, 1915, for furnishing about 3,000 tons of bituminous coal. Information on application to the United States Engineer's Office.

Navy Department supplies, No. 2794.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for furnishing the following materials. Firms interested therein should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving the schedule numbers desired: Schedule 9021, rolling registers and oak railroad ties; schedule 9022, expanded-metal lockers; schedule 9023, pipe threading and cutting-off machine; schedule 9024, convertible steel-plate fans, 3-horse-power motor ammunition hoists, and turret-turning motors; schedule 9025, 400 cubic-foot capacity ventilating set; schedule 9026, metallic life rafts, with outfits; schedule 9027, megaphones; schedule 9028, angle and gate valves; schedule 9029, bar steel; schedule 9030, galvanized iron or steel buckets, water-closets with covers, and dry lampblack; schedule 9031, mortise locks for sliding doors, padlocks, wardrobe cylinder locks, wire mesh, garnet paper, brass machine screws, and brass wood screws; schedule 9032, uncut mica, steel boiler rivets, and sheet steel; schedule 9033, stay binding, ships' bugles, polishing paste, liquid metal polish, soap powder, fresh-water laundry soap, and toilet soap; schedule 9034, "Connellsville" coke; schedule 9035, toilet paper; schedule 9036, coarse concrete sand and broken stone and stone screenings; schedule 9037, coal for rivet forges, red dry lead, white lead in oil, lard oil, cast-iron pipe fittings, and malleable-iron unions; and schedule 9038, bar brass.

Docking and repairing light vessels, No. 2795.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Lighthouse Inspector, Milwaukee, Wis., until December 1, 1915, for docking and repairing light vessels. Blank proposals and particulars may be obtained on application to the above office.

Remodeling, No. 2796.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 30, 1915, for the remodeling of the United States Courthouse (old appraiser's stores) at Galveston, Tex. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at Galveston or at the Washington office.

Wire, No. 2797.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until December 6, 1915, for furnishing the Signal Corps with 40,000 feet of counterpoise, rubber covered and braided, wire; 40,000 feet pothead wire, 36 mills (Spec. 340-B, 403-A, 430-G, 581-A); and 40,000 feet wire, pothead, 36 mills (in accordance with A. T. & T. specifications).

Remodeling, No. 2798.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 29, 1915, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the United States post office and courthouse at Missoula, Mont. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at Missoula or at the Washington office.

Sale of vessels, No. 2799.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., until December 30, 1915, for purchase of Coast and Geodetic Survey steamers *Gedney* and *McArthur*. These vessels are now in Seattle Harbor, where prospective bidders may inspect them; exact location of vessels may be had on application to Inspector, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Seattle, Wash. Further information may be had on application to the Superintendent or to the Inspectors of Coast and Geodetic Survey, at 202 Burke Building, Seattle, Wash., and 310 Customhouse, San Francisco, Cal.

Cartridge cloth, No. 2800.—Sealed proposals will be received at Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, N. J., until December 13, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at

Picatinny Arsenal, 6,000 square yards of extra heavy weight silk cartridge cloth, in accordance with specifications which may be had on application to the above-named arsenal.

Surfboats, No. 2801.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Coast Guard, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 18, 1915, for the construction of Beebe-McLellan Self-Bailing Power Surfboats, 1915, delivered f. o. b. at place of construction. Bidders should state the number of working days for the completion and delivery of each boat. Plans and specifications, instructions to bidders, etc., may be had on application to the Supervisor of Lifeboats, Coast Guard, Room 522 Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

SCARCITY OF PEAS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

[From report of Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Birmingham, England, Oct. 19.]

Wholesale houses report a scarcity of blue peas in the United Kingdom, and inquiries are being received for the names of Canadian firms in position to export. The annual imports of peas by the United Kingdom are valued at approximately \$5,000,000. In normal times large quantities are purchased from Russia, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, British India, and New Zealand. Of these imports of "peas (not fresh) other than split peas," totaling \$4,610,015 in value in the fiscal year 1913-14, Canada furnished \$28,868 and the United States \$20,036 worth. The imports during the fiscal year 1914-15 dropped to \$2,474,391, of which Canada supplied \$36,981 and the United States \$29,296.

The price of peas is advancing and there does not appear to be any relief in sight. Some idea of the increase can be ascertained by comparing the quantities and values of imports during the first 9 months of 1914 and 1915. Imports during the former period were 837,831 hundredweight (hundredweight=112 pounds) valued at \$2,160,400, and during the latter period 719,920 hundredweight, valued at \$2,712,984, an advance of \$1.04 per hundredweight.

MATCHES FOR COSTA RICA.

[Consul C. Donaldson, Port Limon, Nov. 5.]

The value of matches annually imported through this port for consumption throughout the Republic of Costa Rica, is about \$50,000, of which 92 per cent formerly came from Germany, 5 per cent from England, and about 3 per cent from France. This trade is being diverted to the United States, because of lack of transportation facilities from Sweden, where practically all the matches used in these countries are made, having come here through Germany and other countries.

The principal importers of matches in this district are the large wholesale and retail department stores, which import practically every kind of goods for which there is a demand.

[The addresses of these firms may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; refer to file 68861.]

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the **Bureau and its branch offices.**]

Dolls, toys, etc., No. 19375.—A letter to the Bureau from a business man in England states that he desires to communicate with manufacturers of dolls, toys, fancy goods, and similar articles, with a view to representing them on a commission basis.

Sulphate of ammonia, fertilizers, etc., No. 19376.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm in Africa desires to represent American manufacturers of sulphate of ammonia, machinery for sugar plantations, chemical fertilizers, and bone meal.

Aloe fiber, No. 19377.—The Bureau is in receipt of a communication from a commercial agent stating that a firm in Africa is desirous of finding a market in this country for aloe fiber.

Millinery, etc., No. 19378.—A letter to the Bureau from a man in Argentina states that he wishes to communicate with manufacturers or exporters of millinery, fancy goods, or any other line that they desire to sell in Argentina.

Novelties, No. 19379.—A trade organization informs the Bureau that a man in Italy desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of novelties, with a view to handling such goods as a merchant or on an agency basis. Bank references are given.

Shoes, hosiery, etc., No. 19380.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a man who is contemplating going to Colombia wishes to obtain an agency from manufacturers of shoes, hosiery, cloth goods, and novelties, especially all lines of goods sold in a department store.

Paper, pharmaceutical products, hosiery, etc., No. 19381.—A letter to the Bureau states that a company in Egypt desires to represent on a commission basis manufacturers of paper, pharmaceutical products, hosiery for women and children, soaps, optical goods, furniture, toys, corsets, jewelry, pearl buttons, waists, etc.

Castor oils, paraffin, etc., No. 19382.—An American consular officer reports that there is an inquiry in Russia for names and addresses of manufacturers of castor oil, paraffin, and rosin. Prices should be quoted in rubles, c. i. f. Russian ports, weights in poods.

Electrical materials, etc., No. 19383.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that an electrical and machinery supply house desires to represent manufacturers of electrical material, such as motors, transformers, protective apparatus, centrifugal pumps, machine tools, brick-making machines, and electric automobiles. Interested firms should be prepared to negotiate along liberal lines of credit, and are requested to forward propositions and technical guarantees, together with catalogues fully describing goods and showing weights, dimensions, capacities, etc. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Bamboo, No. 19384.—A report from an American consular officer states that a man engaged in the lumber business in Brazil is in a position to furnish manufacturers with bamboo used in the manufacture of certain classes of furniture. It is stated that 50,000 pieces could be furnished each month.

Electrical supplies, No. 19385.—An American consular officer in China reports that a trade organization in Siberia desires to place a large order for carbons for incandescent street lamps using direct current; also switches, sockets, rosettes, plugs, and meters. Samples, catalogues, price lists, and terms of sale are solicited.

Chloride of lime, No. 19386.—A firm in Canada informs an American consular officer that it desires to get in touch with manufacturers or exporters of chloride of lime. Correspondence may be in English.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 280 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, November 30 1915

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SEASON'S OUTLOOK FOR FRUIT IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 27.]

The prospects for the stone fruits crop in New Zealand this season is poor, owing largely to the fact that the last season crop was a record one, but the outlook for pears and apples is good. Fruit growers this year are having an unusually hard battle with slugs and snails, which have been multiplied by the extended wet weather.

FLAX SUFFERS FROM PEST IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 27.]

The operations of a flax grub or worm resembling a caterpillar are playing havoc with the green flax in certain portions of the flax-growing sections of New Zealand that is becoming quite alarming in some cases. The Government has sent an expert biologist into the field to study conditions and to see what can be done to exterminate the pest. If something can not be done soon the output must be seriously curtailed in many sections.

AFRICAN MARKETS FOR AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.

[Commercial Agent E. C. Porter, New York, Nov. 24.]

A well-known firm in East Africa has recently written to the branch district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in New York City, speaking favorably of the opportunities for American goods in Africa.

The letter states that houses and manufacturers in one of the continental countries have done an enormous business in the markets in Portuguese West Africa and in the French and Belgian Congo. Notwithstanding the fact that long terms of credit have been given in these markets, this firm does not believe it will be necessary to follow this custom in order to develop the field, although 60 and 90 day credits should be allowed.

The letter further states that there is an exceptionally good market for canned goods, galvanized iron and zinc, iron in bars, calicoes, furnishings, boots and shoes, and a number of other articles.

SWEEPING POWDERS USED IN LONDON.

[Commercial Attaché A. H. Baldwin, London, Nov. 12.]

Several different makes of sweeping powders or compounds are on the market in London for use when sweeping plain or polished floors, linoleum, carpet, or other floor covering in households, offices, shops, factories, warehouses, public buildings, etc. A small quantity of such a compound is strewn on the floor surface and is then swept up, the advantages claimed being that the powder prevents the rising of the dust during sweeping, and, incidentally, it cleanses the floor through the elimination of dirt and dust particles.

One make of sweeping powder is sold in London at 12 cents and 24 cents for small packages containing quantities sufficient for use in private households. It is also obtainable in larger quantities in kegs or sacks as follows: Twenty-eight pounds, \$0.73; 56 pounds, \$1.22; 100 pounds, \$2.07. Another brand is marketed at \$3.40 per 100 pounds (this includes the price of the retainer, 97 cents, which is credited when returned). [The name of a London firm interested in the American manufactures of sweeping powders may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.]

TRADE ACTIVITIES OF THE MARACAIBO CONSULATE.

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, Venezuela, Oct. 14.]

During the quarter ending September 30 sixty-six trade enquiries were answered by the Maracaibo consulate. These were on such varied subjects as aeroplanes and guinea pigs. Many agencies were established for American manufactures, among them being pianos, office furniture, filing equipment, and toilet articles. Lists of dealers in certain lines were corrected for trade publications and directories (Kelly's Directory, the Western Brewer, Dun's Review, Tea & Coffee Trade Journal, El Comercio, Office Appliances, etc.).

Two new local commission houses were opened during the quarter, and it was gratifying to note that before any arrangements were made the facilities of the consulate were sought and obtained. Many salesmen called and were given all the assistance possible. The daily newspapers and trade publications on file here were eagerly sought, not only by traveling Americans but also by Venezuelans.

IMPORTS INTO SOUTH AFRICA FOR SEPTEMBER.

[Vice Consul John W. Dye, Cape Town, Oct. 11.]

The following table shows the value of the imports into the Union of South Africa through the various channels during the month of September, 1914 and 1915.

Ports.	1914	1915	Ports.	1914	1915
Cape Town.....	\$2,312,912	\$3,038,068	Loureno Marques.....	8801,517	\$1,340,580
Port Elizabeth.....	2,309,076	4,009,518	Other ports and stations..	231,227	75,918
East London.....	931,916	1,438,572			
Durban.....	2,195,269	4,910,581	Total.....	8,781,917	15,012,287

BANK COLLECTIONS IN PERU.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Lima, Oct. 12.]

Below is given a copy of a memorandum which the Banco del Peru y Londres, the principal banking institution of Peru, is sending to its American clients, setting forth its reasons for not remitting promptly to the United States the proceeds of drafts which have been sent to the bank for collections, viz:

The difficulty in obtaining drafts on Europe and the United States at the moment of effecting a collection for account of some client abroad obliges us to credit the collection in a "provisional account" until such time as we may be able to obtain the necessary drafts with which to make remittance.

The demand for paper continues very much in excess of supply, owing, principally, to the general closure of credits and to the placing of money in the United States.

Our production is in considerable excess of our consumption, but unfortunately the crisis and consequent distrust withdraw from the market a large amount of drafts.

These difficulties are especially severe for this establishment, which has to effect collections for a very elevated amount.

The foregoing statement made by the bank is substantially correct, as there is undoubtedly a scarcity here at present of drafts on New York and London, and this condition is likely to last for some time. Probably the main reason for the bank's desire not to remit at the present time is because 30 days' sight drafts on New York cost here at present \$4.24 to the pound sterling and three days' sight drafts \$4.18 to the pound.

Some American merchants have taken exception to this procedure, claiming that by holding their funds in the "provisional account" of the Lima bank they are deprived of its use, which entails a loss and requires them to borrow a similar amount in the United States, paying interest thereon.

The only suggestion the writer has to make in this matter is that inasmuch as the Banco del Peru y Londres, and in fact nearly all the banks of Lima, pays at present an annual interest on time deposits of 2 per cent for two months, 3 per cent for three months, 4 per cent for six months, 5 per cent for nine months, and 6 per cent for one year, it would appear that American merchants would be justified in requesting these banks to pay their usual rate of interest on time deposits for the amounts held to the credit of the bank's "provisional account," thereby meeting the expenses of the American client for borrowing a like amount in the United States.

MANUFACTURE OF BRONZE POWDER IN FRANCE.

[J. H. Needham, Secretary to American commercial attaché at Paris.]

The following is a quotation from the *Agence Economique & Financiere*, of Paris, a daily publication which is considered very reliable:

Les Etablissements Grivolin, of which the main office is at Toulouse, and which has heretofore specialized in the manufacture of paints and varnishes, has just created a new department of its industry, that of the manufacture of bronze powder and powder of aluminium, two products in which the Germans have been enjoying a monopoly in France. We understand that for this purpose the Société above named has issued new capital stock in the amount of 350,000 francs, each share being for 250 francs.

TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 27.]

The telephone system of New Zealand is being rapidly developed by the National Government with up-to-date material and appliances and much of it is now coming from the United States. According to the Government Public Works Statement for 1914, 12 new exchanges were opened and the number of exchange connections increased by 4,846. A length of 390 miles of pole line and 2,136 miles of wire were added to the telegraph and interurban telephone system, and 515 miles of pole line and 34,325 miles of wire to the telephone exchange local system, while 1,637 miles of telegraph and interurban telephone lines were overhauled and reconstructed.

During the year 46 coin-in-slot telephones were installed, making a total of 139 slot telephones open for public use. The substitution of underground cable for aerial cable and the conversion of earth-working exchanges for the metallic circuit system is stated to be proceeding steadily. "On account of the abnormal conditions caused by the war," says the minister, "some delay has been experienced in obtaining equipment for automatic telephone exchanges, but the provision of suitable building accommodation and underground cable equipment has been steadily proceeded with."

The telephone service in this city is rapidly being changed to the automatic system, which is giving splendid satisfaction, and the instruments are all manufactured in the United States.

The service is good and covers the Dominion. The public telephone is exceptionally good, and the charge within the city is only 2 cents for three minutes. The yearly rate for a business phone is \$34.06 within half a mile of the exchange, and for a residence phone \$24.60, within 1 mile of the exchange, and \$2.43 for each additional mile in each case.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Hong Kong, China.....	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	.....	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

*The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

BRADFORD SHIPMENTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Nov. 2.]

The declared exports from the Bradford (England) consular district to the United States during October, 1915, were valued at \$2,675,124, as compared with \$1,866,067 in the corresponding month of 1914, and \$1,231,057 during September, 1915. The total exports of raw wool for October totaled \$1,752,038, which is the largest amount recorded in the history of this consulate for any month except April, 1897, when the wool exports reached \$2,265,895 as a result of this product being on the free list.

The exports of wool during October, 1915, showed a gain over the corresponding month of 1914 of \$1,643,936. With the exception of September, 1914, the total exports from the Bradford district for the month of October, 1915, exceed those of any month since the beginning of the war. In contrast to the increase noted in the exportation of raw wool, there has been a large decrease in woollen dress goods, coat linings, woollen cloths, mohair plushes, wool yarns, and mohair yarns. A substantial increase, however, is observed in cotton cloth over the exports for the corresponding month in 1914.

Effect of Relaxation of Embargo on Wool Exports—Cloth Shipments.

The relaxation of the embargo on crossbred and English wools which became effective on October 14, 1915, has proved a great stimulus to Bradford exports, the large shipments under license being interpreted as meaning that the contracts for military cloths are nearing completion and that the supply of wool in England is sufficient for immediate military purposes.

The decrease in the shipment of cloths is largely attributable to the fact that all worsted and woollen goods, even those containing a cotton warp or weft, must be accompanied by a Government permit for exportation, or a certificate from the local chamber of commerce stating that such cloths are not of the weight, design, and quality used for military purposes, with full information as to destination and consignee. The recommendation of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce is sought in practically all woollen and worsted shipments from the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Exports of cotton goods to the United States from Bradford show an increase during October over the corresponding month of 1914 of \$44,501.

Increased Exports of Silk Yarns—Decreases in Exports.

Exports of silk yarns showed an increase over October, 1914, of \$97,125. The embargo on silk noils is still observed, and but one case of a permit has come to the attention of the writer, this being granted upon the representations of an American consignee who made affidavit before a State commissioner that the noils were for home manufacture and consumption.

The following is a list of articles with the amount of decrease in value of exports to the United States during October, 1915, compared with the corresponding month in 1914, and is significant in representing the effect of high prices and the new requirements for the exportation of woollen goods: Woollen cloths, \$189,319; mohair cloths, \$120,761; woollen linings, \$171,588; dress goods (woolen), \$168,799; mohair plushes, \$50,804; wool yarns, \$66,335; mohair yarns, \$78,359.

RAILWAY MOTOR COACH.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 27.]

The New Zealand Government is preparing to handle the suburban passenger traffic on the State railways in this Dominion in a more economical and satisfactory way than by the usual steam lines, and with that in view has ordered a specially designed internal combustion engine electric rail coach, as described by the following clipping from the Auckland Star, a leading daily of this city:

In continuation of its experiments with motor rail coaches for dealing with the light and frequent services required in the suburban districts of the Dominion, the railway department has ordered a 200-horsepower petrol electric rail coach from the Thomas Transmission Co., an English firm, which has evolved what is claimed to be a greatly improved means of conveying power from the petrol motor to the driving wheels. The disadvantage of petrol motors in railway work is the lack of elasticity in power output. However, by using the motor to generate electricity, which is then employed through an electric motor, the difficulty is overcome. The latest motor coach to be ordered for the New Zealand railways has an eight-cylinder petrol motor, with a power transmission feature which is quite unique, being a combination of electric and mechanical. In working up speed the electrical machines are used, but when the vehicle has reached a speed at which the motors can be run at an economical speed geared direct to the road wheels, a direct mechanical drive comes automatically into use, the more complicated electromechanical drive being automatically put out. During trials in Birmingham the engine pulled loads of 120 and 200 tons, and it is intended to give a speed of 40 miles per hour on the level. It will be capable of pulling a trailer.

USE OF CEMENT DRAINTILE IN ALKALI SOILS INCREASING.

As a result of the publication by the United States Bureau of Standards of its experience in testing, during a year's period, cement dRAINTILE in alkali soils, two large contracts have been let in Utah. One is for more than 200 miles of cement dRAINTILE, and the other for about 68 miles of cement tile.

The bureau has more extended tests under way, and believes that if the tile continues to resist the action of alkali in experimental drains as it has in the single year's tests, this will result in the extensive use of cement dRAINTILE in Western districts, with appreciable saving to irrigation farmers.

The bureau is now testing tile placed two years ago in alkali districts, and superintending the placing of new test specimens and taking samples of soil, water, and tile.

FLEECY FABRICS ON SWISS MARKET.

Vice Consul Leon Böhm de Sauvanne, in forwarding samples of fleecy fabrics sold in Berne, states that the principal houses selling these goods in that Swiss city have direct connections with the manufacturers. He also says that two important local firms informed him that Zurich and Geneva, which have factories making women's wrappers, dressing sacques, and children's clothes, present larger markets for the sale of fleecy fabrics than does Berne, which has no establishments of this character.

[The samples above mentioned may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer to file No. 67555.]

NEED OF SHIPPING LINES TO SOUTH AMERICA.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has made public the following letter dated November 18, 1915, which he received from the Columbus Bolt Works Co., of Columbus, Ohio, relative to the necessity for the establishment of lines of shipping vessels between United States ports and those of South America:

HON. WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,
Secretary of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: In connection with export from the United States to South America there is one difficulty presenting itself at the present, which in our opinion will greatly handicap the exporting by this country to South America after the settlement of the present unpleasant conditions in Europe, and we are taking the liberty of calling this to your attention, although we presume steps have been taken to overcome this difficulty, but if others have called this to your attention we desire to add to their statement, and the wish we desire to make is this:

To a certain extent goods made in the United States are different from those made in European countries, and it will be necessary to a more or less degree to substitute different styles than the people in South America are now purchasing in various lines of material; and this being the case, the trade of South America will naturally drift back to European countries unless it will be possible in some way to establish a line of shipping vessels between the United States ports and those of South America that will be able to deliver the goods to those points quicker than from European connections.

We believe questions of shipments will largely govern the adoption of standards used in this country. Our attention has been forcefully called to this by the fact that we shipped some material in August and to our definite knowledge this shipment has just arrived at point of delivery. We are informed by our representative that shipments from Europe are never longer than from two to three weeks on the way, and we are calling this to your attention, thinking perhaps you might wish to take steps to eliminate the delays of transportation.

BRITISH POTTERY EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The British Board of Trade returns show that the value of British pottery exported from the United Kingdom in October, 1915, was \$890,720, compared with \$864,431 in October, 1914, and \$1,446,080 in October, 1913.

For the ten months ended October 31, 1915, the exports amounted to \$8,295,981, compared with \$11,098,214 for the same period in 1914, and \$13,884,480 for 1913.

The value of pottery imported into the United Kingdom in October, 1915, was \$110,250, compared with \$45,234 for October, 1914, and \$482,187 for 1913.

The value of the imports of pottery for the ten months ended October 31, 1915, was \$760,571, compared with \$3,581,778 for the same period of 1914, and \$4,302,463 for 1913.

AUSTRIAN GRAPE SEED AS A RAW MATERIAL.

[Consul General Albert Halstead, Vienna, Nov. 5.]

The grape seed to the ordinary individual, is simply a waste product, but the value of many kinds of neglected waste products as now being taught by the Austrian Ministry of Commerce calls attention to one of these overlooked raw materials. The oil is to be extracted from the grape seeds remaining after this year's vintage and used suitably, while the cake and extract meals remaining will be utilized as stock food.

ITALIAN MARKET FOR AMERICAN LUMBER.

[Consul William F. Kelley, Rome, Oct. 30.]

For many years Italy has imported lumber from foreign countries to the value of \$25,000,000 annually, principally from Austria-Hungary and Russia, and to a smaller extent from the United States. In these imports the Rome consular district plays an important part, as practically no lumber is produced in this part of Italy.

Italian economists, statesmen, and business men are engaged in the study of means to render Italy less dependent upon imports for the maintenance of the national industries, and the question of lumber imports has been examined. The available timber in all Italy, however, is inadequate for the needs of the country, and it is not considered possible, even by the adoption of a rigid system of afforestation and scientific methods of cultivation, to increase the supply sufficiently to cover the demand.

Albania's Great Forests—Immediate Opportunity for American Lumber.

It has been pointed out that in the adjacent territory of Albania there are vast virgin forests of pine, beech, elm, ash, and oak, which, under careful management and systematic exploitation, would supply the Italian market for many years with practically all the wood required. While this plan necessarily depends upon many contingencies, there is little doubt that the forests of Albania will become one of the principal sources of supply for the Italian market, owing to the vast natural lumber wealth of that country, its proximity to the Italian market, and the possibility of an exchange of Italian products for Albanian lumber.

In the meantime there is a very large demand in this district for lumber and wood of all kinds, owing to the absence of supplies from Austria-Hungary. Railroad ties and planking are especially in demand, and it would appear that American lumber should find a good market in this country. The great difficulties to be overcome are the high freight rates—owing to the comparative lack of return freights—and heavy insurance premiums. Apparently the freight difficulty can be solved only by obtaining special time charters for vessels to carry the lumber to Italy. It is possible that, in a certain measure, return freights could be found in cork wood and mineral ores from the island of Sardinia, within the limits of this consular district. While this enterprise would be in a sense speculative, it is believed that it would merit the serious study of American lumber exporters.

Suggestions for American Lumber Exporters.

A great difficulty to the Italian purchaser of American lumber is his inability to understand the technical expressions that govern the trade in the United States. For instance, no Italian merchant would understand a cable recently brought to this consulate for interpretation by a prospective buyer, quoting a price "per running foot." The amount spent on this telegram was absolutely wasted, irrespective of the valuable time lost in seeking explanations and coming to an understanding. Cubic feet can easily be converted into cubic meters by an Italian buyer, when he understands that sales are by cubic feet, but he must have a straight offer in plain, untechnical terms to work upon before he is in a position to judge the value of any quotation.

In quoting for large contracts with firms in Rome or in Italy it is not always necessary to conform to specifications in minor details. For example, railroad ties, telegraph poles, etc., are frequently demanded bored, drilled, chamfered, or turned in a certain manner; and this work would not be profitable for the American exporter to undertake. It is frequently possible to close a contract for such supplies, excluding the minor details, but care should, of course, be taken to have a clear understanding on both sides as to the exact specifications and the obligations incurred.

[The names of several large lumber dealers and contractors in this consular district who are desirous of obtaining quotations for American lumber may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69068.]

MANUFACTURING FIRM AIDED BY "COMMERCE REPORTS."

[Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, San Francisco, Nov. 10.]

A letter from a manufacturing concern in Southern California, setting forth advantages which the firm has derived from information furnished by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has been received at this office. The following excerpts may be of interest:

About two months ago we subscribed to **COMMERCE REPORTS**. It seems strange that we should have been doing more or less of an export business for the last 10 years and never before have been in touch with the Government service. We are surprised and delighted at the help **COMMERCE REPORTS** has been to us.

Last year we sent one of our salesmen to Australia and New Zealand and trade has increased nearly 500 per cent over any preceding year. We wish now to cultivate the South American trade for one season and then send a salesman down there.

We shall take pleasure in calling at your office at the earliest opportunity, that we may become more familiar with the data you have to offer.

GERMAN POTASH SYNDICATE INCREASES PRICE OF SACKS.

[Consul Talbot J. Albert, Brunswick, Nov. 1.]

The potash syndicate has given notice that it has again increased the price of sacks. The kainit and carnallit sacks for 100 kilos (220 pounds) cost since October 7, 1915, 33 cents apiece; the potash manure sacks for 100 kilos, 36 cents; the peat-mull admixture (Torfmullbeimischung) cost 1 cent more. The syndicate at the same time reserves the choice of material out of which the sacks are made—jute, textile, or cotton. Consumers have been repeatedly requested not to take their supplies in sacks. At the same time the syndicate declares that it is ready to receive freight-free for refilling jute sacks which have been used and are in sound condition, but only such as have a capacity of 100 kilos. A charge of 1 cent will be made for the refilling of used sacks for double hundred weight. This order is valid during the continuance of the war.

Wanted supplies of trouser clasps have been secured in the United States by a Leeds firm, and cream of tartar substitutes and fancy goods will probably be obtained here also as the result of correspondence following the publication in **COMMERCE REPORTS** of Trade Opportunity notes submitted by Consul Homer M. Byington, of that English city.

MARKET FOR HARDWARE IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Oct. 22.]

The value of hardware imported into Paraguay during 1913 (the latest year during which commercial conditions were normal) was \$1,500,685. The principal countries of origin were Great Britain (\$622,478), Germany (\$479,847), United States (\$208,063), France (\$22,698), and Belgium (\$96,604).

The division hardware, in the customs classification of Paraguay, includes a wide range of articles, many of which are not included in the term as used in the United States. The imports under this head from Great Britain include tram cars and equipment to a considerable value; from Belgium, cement; and from the United States, agricultural implements and sewing machines. The greater part of the hardware, as this term is understood in the United States, is imported from Germany, Great Britain, France, and the United States, especially from Germany.

The competition of Germany, Great Britain, and France being at present to a great extent eliminated, there exists an excellent opportunity for American hardware manufacturers to capture the market here. This can not be done, however, by procuring a list of dealers here and bombarding them with catalogues and letters, principally in English. The hardware dealers here are of the opinion that American manufacturers should take pains to study their lines and to provide them with the articles they want, in the qualities and styles they want.

Classes of Goods Wanted—Method of Entering Market.

There are practically only two classes of hardware and cutlery sold in Paraguay—very good quality sold at high prices, and very poor quality sold at very low prices. The latter class is the one in most demand and should be the subject of the closest study. Apart from its being the class in greatest demand, it includes the greatest number of articles that are not manufactured in the United States or not manufactured in the qualities used here.

American manufacturers desiring to enter the hardware market in Paraguay should make a study of the articles offered for sale here, of the styles and qualities of these articles, and of the prices at which they have been sold by European manufacturers. By doing this and by duplicating the articles at prices as low as they have been supplied by European manufacturers they can gain the hardware market of Paraguay. If this is not done, the dealers here will buy small lots from the United States for present needs and will postpone ordering goods in quantity until the European manufacturers are again in a position to supply them.

Special Articles Wanted.

The following is a list of a few articles used here which either are not manufactured in the United States or are not manufactured in the qualities used here:

Steel narrow butts, of the same pattern as those made in the United States, made in the cheapest quality of steel, unpolished, in sizes of $2\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $3\frac{1}{2}$, 4, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 6, and 7 inches.

Dead locks, French pattern, in sizes of 3 by $3\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 5, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, made up of very cheap material. This pattern lock is used here almost exclusively.

Tape lines, of linen and steel tape, marked in meters and centimeters on one side and in Argentine varas on the other. The Argentine vara is 34.0944 inches and is used principally as a wood and timber measurement.

Cook's knives, French pattern, of very cheap material, in sizes of 4 to 14 inches.

Pin steel butts, called here "fichas," with three leaves, in polished steel and in nickel plate.

Bridle bits, polished steel, blued steel, and nickel plated, of a special pattern. The American bit is unsalable here.

Machetes are sold here in quantities of 6,000 to 8,000 dozens a year at \$0.60 to \$5 per dozen. The pattern and prices must be well studied.

Hammers, French pattern, are sold here in large quantities, made of a very cheap grade of cast iron with common handles.

[A list of the principal hardware dealers of Paraguay may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69042.]

OFFICIAL NUMBERS FOR MERCHANT VESSELS.

The following is a statement of official numbers and signal letters awarded to sailing and steam screw merchant vessels by the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, during the week ended November 20, 1915:

Name.	Official number.	Signal letters.	Tonnage.		Year built.	Where built.	Home port.
			Gross.	Net.			
Sail: Golden Gate...	ab213770	LFGV ^a	2,340	2,273	1888	Whitehaven, England.	San Francisco.
Steam screw: Amazonia.....	ac213762	LFQR	2,199	1,327	1891	Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.....	New York.
Edna.....	ad213743	LFQG	1,783	1,135	1903	Bergen, Norway	San Francisco.
Pacific.....	213769	LFQS	6,034	4,380	1915	San Francisco, Cal.	Do.

^a Foreign-built vessel admitted to American registry under the Act of Aug. 18, 1914.

^b Formerly British ship Golden Gate.

^c Formerly Brazilian s.s. Amazonia.

^d Formerly Mexican s.s. Mazatlan.

Foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, since June 30, 1915 numbered 22, of 56,996 tons.

SWATOW MARKET FOR NAILS.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Oct. 20.]

Imports of wire nails into Swatow have fallen off on account of the war. The import figures for the last six years follow: 1910, 317 tons; 1911, 397 tons; 1912, 406 tons; 1913, 584 tons; 1914, 488 tons; 1915 (9 months), 227 tons.

The fact that wire nails are coming into Swatow in quantities not sufficient to supply the normal demand, warrants the assumption that there is an opportunity in this market for American manufactures of this article.

[Samples of nails used in Swatow may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices, which will also supply the names of importers who would be interested in hearing from American manufacturers. Refer to file No. 69070.]

BANK STATEMENT OF FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD.

A further increase of about \$13,000,000 in net reserve deposits, a gain of over \$10,000,000 in combined total reserves, and an addition of about \$5,000,000 to total gold reserves is indicated by the weekly bank statement made public by the Federal Reserve Board at close of business on November 26, 1915. The New York bank reports a gain of \$8,400,000 in total reserve and of \$4,300,000 in gold reserve; Philadelphia shows an increase in total and gold reserves of over \$2,000,000, while Kansas City and Cleveland each report an increase of over \$1,000,000 in their gold and total reserves. The gold resources of the system, including the amounts of gold under control of the Federal Reserve agents, stand at present at \$492,200,000, compared with \$482,700,000 shown at the end of the preceding week. The gain of gold by the system was about \$59,000,000 for the last month, about \$133,000,000 for the last three months, \$194,000,000 for the last six months, and over \$263,000,000 for the last year. The proportion of gold held by Federal Reserve agents, either in their own vaults or in Washington, has risen during the last six months from slightly over 18 to about 35 per cent of the total gold resources of the system.

The total amount of commercial and bank paper in the hands of the banks, \$48,900,000, shows an increase of \$3,800,000 over the preceding weekly total. This gain is due chiefly to the larger amounts of discounts held by the three Southern banks and the considerable purchases of acceptances reported for the past week by the Boston and New York banks. The present week's totals for both classes of paper are larger than for any previous week and together constitute about 55 per cent of the total earning assets. The three Southern banks report about 62 per cent of the entire amount of discounts held, against about 60 per cent the week before and about 70 per cent three months before. The share of bankers' acceptances in the total bill holdings of the banks stands now at about 33 per cent. The distribution of the paper by maturities indicates considerable gains in the holdings of bills with the longer maturities. Thus the proportion of paper falling due after 30 but within 60 days from date of statement increased during the week from 35.1 to 37.4 per cent, while the proportion of paper maturing after 90 days (mostly agricultural and live-stock paper) increased from 7.4 to 7.8 per cent of the total. A large relative decrease from 27.3 to 22.7 per cent is shown for paper maturing after 10 but within 30 days, while the percentage of paper maturing within 10 days shows an increase from 10.2 to 12.6 per cent.

Additional purchases of \$245,000 United States bonds are reported by four banks. The amount of warrants on hand shows a decline of about \$211,000, New York and Philadelphia reporting the largest decreases for the week. The ratio of earning assets to capital is 163 per cent, compared with 156 per cent for the preceding week and 142 per cent about three months ago.

All banks, except Atlanta, show substantial gains for the week in net reserve deposits. New York reports an increase of about \$7,000,000, while Kansas City, Boston, and Cleveland report gains of over \$1,000,000 each. The gain in net deposits was \$54,000,000 for the last month, about \$81,000,000 for the last three months, about \$106,000,000 for the last six months, and about \$149,000,000 for the last year.

Federal Reserve agents report a total of \$187,800,000 of notes outstanding, an increase for the week of \$4,600,000. Against this total they hold \$171,000,000 of gold, \$100,000 of lawful money, and \$17,600,000 of paper. The banks report a total note circulation of \$165,300,000 and a net liability thereon of \$13,400,000.

The following table shows the resources and liabilities of the Federal Reserve banks at the close of business on May 28, August 27, October 29, November 19, and November 26, 1915:

	May 28, 1915.	Aug. 27, 1915.	Oct. 29, 1915.	Nov. 19, 1915.	Nov. 26, 1915.
RESOURCES.					
Gold coin and certificates in vault	\$219,187,000	\$211,145,000	\$218,724,000	\$245,400,000	\$245,996,000
Gold settlement fund	23,438,000	55,130,000	61,900,000	69,341,000	73,530,000
Gold redemption fund with United States Treasurer	1,027,000	1,104,000	1,222,000	1,232,000	1,252,000
Total gold reserve	243,640,000	268,179,000	281,406,000	315,977,000	321,038,000
Legal-tender notes, silver, etc.	31,989,000	19,878,000	87,038,000	32,173,000	37,212,000
Total reserve	275,629,000	288,057,000	318,454,000	348,150,000	358,280,000
Bills discounted and bought:					
Maturities—					
Within 10 days.....	12,907,000	4,445,000	6,945,000	4,003,000	6,164,000
From 11 to 30 days.....		10,658,000	10,595,000	12,320,000	11,129,000
From 31 to 60 days.....	12,428,000	17,209,000	15,969,000	15,635,000	18,325,000
From 61 to 90 days.....		8,562,000	8,458,000	9,918,000	9,524,000
Over 90 days.....	8,621,000	1,945,000	2,182,000	3,373,000	3,531,000
Total	32,951,000	42,839,000	44,067,000	45,149,000	48,973,000
Investments:					
United States bonds.....	6,997,000	8,736,000	16,306,000	12,674,000	12,919,000
Municipal warrants.....	23,034,000	25,808,000	25,014,000	27,519,000	27,308,000
Federal reserve notes (net)	7,765,000	12,491,000	19,723,000	18,792,000	19,176,000
Due from Federal reserve banks (net)	7,435,000	6,990,000	8,523,000	15,827,000	14,058,000
All other resources	5,428,000	4,962,000	3,645,000	3,662,000	4,653,000
Total resources	340,247,000	389,963,000	420,951,000	471,773,000	485,342,000
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid in	54,158,000	54,680,000	54,738,000	54,854,000	54,846,000
Government deposits			15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
Reserve deposits (net)	202,040,000	218,980,000	242,554,000	284,907,000	297,962,000
Federal reserve notes (net)	10,921,000	16,738,000	13,918,000	12,923,000	13,825,000
All other liabilities	3,118,000	1,567,000	2,441,000	3,999,000	4,199,000
Total liabilities	360,247,000	389,963,000	420,951,000	471,773,000	485,342,000
Gold reserve against net liabilities^a..... per cent.	82.4	82.1	77.3	79.6	77.9
Cash reserve against net liabilities^a..... per cent.	93.3	88.2	87.5	87.7	86.9
Cash reserve against net deposit liabilities, after setting aside 40 per cent gold reserve against net amount of Federal Reserve notes in circulation^a..... per cent.	95.3	90.8	89.4	89.3	88.5

^a Loss (losses in transit between Federal Reserve banks, which were \$7,435,000, \$6,990,000, \$8,533,000, \$26,827,000, and \$14,053,000, respectively, on the dates mentioned.

CONSULATE WANTS CATALOGUES.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, Jr., Bristol, England, Oct. 25.]

This consulate would be pleased to receive catalogues and price lists from American manufacturers of goods of all kinds. Owing to the present large demand for American products, a complete file of catalogues would be of considerable advantage to be shown to local dealers desiring to be placed in touch with sources of supply in the United States.

EARNINGS OF SPANISH RAILWAY COMPANIES.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Oct. 30.]

The latest edition of the *Gaceta de los Caminos de Hierro*, published in Madrid, contrasts the 1915 earnings of the five leading railways of Spain with the earnings of 1914 (January 1 to October 10). The figures are in pesetas, which have been of the average value of about 19.7 cents during the period covered.

	Mileage.	1915	1914
		<i>Pesetas.</i>	<i>Pesetas.</i>
Norte de España.....	2,287	116 034 068	114 383,049
Madrid, Saragossa. Alicante.....	2,277	97.732.082	96.433 350
Andaluces.....	7-3	13.4-3 217	23 043.824
Madrid, Cáceres, Portugal.....	266	4.847.336	4.749.149
Plasencia-Astorga.....	216	3.196.955	3.191.312
Total.....		245,323.713	241,820,684

The gain in 1915 over 1914 is 3,503,034 pesetas. The remaining railway systems of the country are of less mileage than the lowest of the above and show a loss in 1915 over 1914. Freight and passenger rates are the same as last year; officials of the roads state that passenger traffic has been lighter in 1915 than in 1914, but that the volume of freight has largely increased.

CANADIAN EGG STANDARDS.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Nov. 12.]

The Canadian Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has provided standards in three general classes for eggs—"fresh gathered," "storage," and "cracked and dirties."

Four grades are provided in the first class, three in second, and two in the third. In the "fresh-gathered" class are "specials," "extras," No. 1's, and No. 2's. The grade "specials" is omitted from the "storage" class and both specials and extras from the class for "cracked and dirties." "Specials," according to the standards, are eggs of uniform size weighing over 24 ounces to the dozen or over 45 pounds net to the 30-dozen case; absolutely clean, strong, and sound in shell; air cell small (not over three-sixteenths of an inch in depth), white of egg firm and clear, and yolk dimly visible; free from blood clots.

"Extras" are eggs of good size, weighing at least 24 ounces to the dozen or 45 pounds net to the 30-dozen case; clean, sound in shell; air cell less than three-eighths of an inch in depth, with white of egg firm and yolk slightly visible.

"No. 1's" are eggs weighing at least 23 ounces to the dozen or 43 pounds net to the 30-dozen case; clean, sound in shell; air cells less than one-half inch in depth; white of egg reasonably firm, yolk visible but mobile, not stuck to the shell or seriously out of place.

"No. 2's" are eggs clean, sound in shell; may contain weak and watery eggs and eggs with heavy yolks, and all other eggs sound in shell and fit for food.

AMERICAN SALESMEN VISIT ONTARIO.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Canada, Nov. 12.]

It is gratifying to note the increase of American trade at this port and to meet the large number of American salesmen now visiting Kingston.

Wool yarn, formerly altogether imported from Great Britain by the Kingston Knitting Mill, now comes from the United States. Under former conditions it was not possible to sell and compete with England owing to the preferential tariff rates given by Canada to the motherland. That American manufacturers are keen to the opportunities existing in Canada, especially in this consular district, is shown by the large number of commercial inquiries received daily at this consulate. Kingston importers are now making regular trips to New York City for purchases, and the large increase in the Canadian Government's revenue in customs at this port shows that the United States now ranks first in supplying the needs of the local merchants.

DATE GROWING IN THE PUNJAB.

[Consul James Oliver Laing, Karachi, India, Oct. 12.]

Date growing is progressing in the Province of the Punjab in northern India. Dates have been grown here since the beginning of time, but have not been cultivated as well as the dates in the Persian Gulf countries. The Government of the Punjab sent an expert to Busrah, at the head of the Persian Gulf, to get suckers from the date palms there. It is probable that these Busrah trees are the finest date trees in the world. These suckers grew successfully and this year dates were available for the market. These dates were so choice that they sold for 6 annas (\$0.12) a pound. The ordinary country dates can be bought for 2 rupees (\$0.65) for about 80 or 85 pounds. It is the intention of the Government to develop this crop. The demand for the dates far outran the supply.

ASSISTANCE RENDERED CREWS OF DISABLED VESSELS.

On November 24, 1915, the Secretary of Commerce commended John W. St. G. Gibbon and Christian T. Thomasen, keeper and assistant keeper, respectively, at Head of Passes Light Station, La., for assistance rendered to the crew of the gasoline launch *Shirley*, which was disabled in Southwest Pass, La.

On November 27, 1915, the Secretary of Commerce commended Charles E. Corlett, commanding, and August Wanke, engineer, on North Manitou Shoal Light Vessel No. 56, Michigan, for assistance rendered to the motor boat *Why-Not*, which was discovered in the vicinity of Light Vessel No. 56 in a disabled condition.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Steel wire, corrugated, galvanized and plain iron, No. 19387.—A commercial agent of the Bureau transmits the name of a firm in Argentina which desires to represent American firms for the sale of all kinds of steel wire, corrugated, galvanized and plain iron.

Cement, linseed oil, barbed wire, window glass, etc., No. 19388.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in that country desires to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers of Portland cement; oxide of zinc; raw, pale linseed oil; barbed wire; window glass; steel I beams; tinplates; corrugated, galvanized steel sheets; white wall tiles; asbestos tiles; and tin for soldering purposes.

Leather, No. 19389.—A company in the United States writes that a firm in Roumania desires to communicate with American manufacturers of black and orange harness leather; box kip, velour, brown calf, and sterling kid shoe leather; and leather for the manufacture of transmission belting.

General agency, No. 19390.—A man in Cuba writes that he desires to communicate with American firms desiring to establish an exclusive agency in Cuba. No particular line was specified.

Chemical products, No. 19391.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American chemical manufacturers with a view to securing a general agency for copper sulphate, caustic soda, and silicate of soda. Reference is given. Quotations for various grades should be f. o. b. New York or c. i. f. destination. Correspondence may be in English.

Shovels, forks, hoes, and cutlasses, No. 19392.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in South America that a firm in his district desires to receive catalogues and prices, f. o. b. New York, from American manufacturers of shovels, forks, spades, hoes, and cutlasses used in the sugar and rice industries.

Shuttle blocks, No. 19393.—A firm in Canada writes the Bureau that it desires to communicate with American manufacturers of "Shuttle blocks," used in the manufacture of brooms.

Leather and shoe findings, No. 19394.—An American consular officer in Paraguay writes that a firm in his district desires to purchase leather and shoe findings. Terms desired are cash against documents at destination. The goods are to be assigned to a bank. Correspondence and catalogues should be in Spanish.

Portable buildings for quarantine station, No. 19395.—An American consular officer in Central America reports a possible market for ready-made, ready-to-set-up, buildings for a new quarantine station. Further information may be had on application to the Bureau or its branch offices.

Fabrics for women's clothing, dry goods, notions, etc., No. 19396.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a man in that country desires to represent American firms manufacturing fabrics for women's clothing, dry goods, notions, slippers, paper and cardboard articles for office use, pharmaceutical products, patent medicines, and chemical products.

Crayons, pencils, furnishings for corsets, rubber sponges, etc., No. 19397.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a man in that country desires to represent American firms manufacturing copying crayons, pencils, furnishings for corsets, rubber sponges, cream separators, knitting machines, thumb tacks, garden and fire hose, and pipes in hard rubber or vulcanite.

Material for underwear, No. 19398.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Australia writes that a man in that country desires to receive samples, with full particulars and approximate time required for delivery of material, in the piece, for manufacturing underwear. Fleecy lined underwear material for the body and also sleeve; ribbed, knitted cotton, vest material; and plain, knitted cotton, vest material, with sleeve and neck binding are desired. Samples of the material required may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 898.)

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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INCREASED POSTAGE CHARGE IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 9.]

The New Zealand Government has imposed a war tax of one-half penny (1 cent) additional on every piece of mail (except newspapers) posted in this country, save in case of mail under the Postal Union rate now paying 5 cents. Ordinary letters to the United States, therefore, must pay $1\frac{1}{2}$ pence (3 cents) per ounce under the new rate, as compared with the former rate of 1 penny (2 cents) per ounce. This measure is supposed to net \$1,508,615.

RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVELERS IN RUSSIAN POLAND.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Germany, Nov. 8.]

During the period of reconstruction of civil government and the restoration of trade and commerce in Russian Poland, now under German administration, the Governor General at Warsaw announces in the press that travelers for commercial, economic, and historical purposes will be admitted into this territory only when their presence is absolutely required. Excellent progress has already been made in railroad and postal communication, but there is still a great deal to do. Regular mail service between Poland and countries outside of Germany has not yet been established. Anyone bringing or sending capital or supplies of any kind to the stricken of this territory will find an open door at all times. In all cases, however, tourists and commercial travelers are advised to consult one of the American consulates along this frontier territory before attempting to enter.

The Philippine Agricultural Department has sent 700 cacao and 500 coffee trees to Iloilo for distribution among farmers.

AMERICAN TRADE RESULTS PRODUCED IN SWEDEN.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Goteborg. Oct. 16.]

The Goteborg consulate had more than the usual number of commercial inquiries during the past quarter. Prompt attention was given to them. The consulate has received information of business results in the following instances:

A letter dated September 1, 1915, from a manufacturers' agent in New York City, contains the following paragraph:

I took pleasure in addressing you February 1, relative to my facilities for supplying foreign clients with American products of all sorts. I now wish to offer you my sincere thanks for your kindness in placing my name before interested parties in your consular district, and to advise you that through the efforts of this most efficient service I have been brought in touch with many desirable distributors and consumers, and I have thereby been able to make valuable connections, which I could not otherwise have done.

A letter from a firm of glue manufacturers, dated September 20, 1915, states that the firm sold a trial order of glues to a firm in Goteborg, with which this consulate put them in communication. These manufacturers state: "We appreciate this very much as a trial order and feel confident that it will lead to further business."

A special report was made by this consulate on the market for coal in Sweden in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 18, 1915. Coal remained, aside from food products, of chief interest in Sweden's import demands. The United States could sell several hundred thousand tons of coal in Sweden provided tonnage, either steam or sail, could be secured to carry the coal at not more than 40 shillings (\$9.73) per ton. Unfortunately the rate during September and to the present remained at 50 shillings (\$12.17), and Swedish importers are not willing to make large purchases.

Representative of American Firm Sells Cargoes of Coal Here.

This consulate had correspondence last May with a Philadelphia firm regarding the market for coal here. A representative of the company arrived here early in September. This consulate assisted him in getting acquainted with the leading importers of Goteborg, and he has thus far sold three cargoes of American coal. He states that he could sell very large quantities here if he could secure cheaper freight rates, but even with the present high rates his chances for selling several more cargoes are very good. He has also sold coal in Christiania, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Malmo on this trip.

During the quarter this consulate had correspondence with five other American coal companies, and one of them, located in New York City, sold at least one cargo of coal to Goteborg. Several other cargoes arrived here during the quarter from the United States. It is not known whether or not they were sold in consequence of information furnished by this consulate.

A representative of a New York firm visited Goteborg, called at this consulate, and was given lists of names of firms interested in the various lines of goods he was in a position to sell. He was assisted in getting acquainted with leading business men. He has already sold, for account of the Swedish Government, more than 2,500 tons of lubricating oils, 4,600 tons of food material, and a considerable quantity of asbestos. He also sold, for account of private firms of Goteborg, c. i. f., subject to the approval of the firm he represents, two cargoes of foodstuffs.

BRITISH POTATO HARVEST.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, Nov. 4.]

The potato crops of the Nottingham district have all been harvested, and the yields have been considerably lighter than those of last year, although as a rule the tubers are of an excellent quality. Careful inquiries show that the average yield for the various kinds of potatoes will be fully 2 tons per acre below the production of 12 months ago. It has been a very trying season for the growers; the frosts in June and the long drought which followed, the ravages by disease, and the lack of sufficient sun in July are the principal causes of the reduced yield.

Official statistics just issued by the Board of Agriculture show that in England and Wales 463,400 acres were planted to potatoes this year, compared with 461,620 acres in 1914. In Lincolnshire, which is the premier potato-growing county of England, 82,156 acres were planted, as against 81,777 acres last year.

Leading Varieties—Large Demand Expected.

As heretofore, "King Edwards" have turned out to be the best variety of the year, although in some of the potato-growing districts of England the "British Queen" appears to be the favorite for heavy yields. The "Royal Kidney," which is exported very extensively to Spain and Africa, is a tuber which has been largely grown; the yields of this variety have been heavier than usual, and in some cases up to 9 tons per acre of good, sound potatoes have been secured. "Evergoods" and "Arran Chiefs" have paid well for growing, especially where Scotch seed were planted. Of the newer varieties "Dalhousie" and "Langworthy" are spoken of very highly, especially as to their keeping qualities and productiveness.

The higher prices which now prevail are expected to compensate the growers for the reduced crop. Many merchants have already purchased good lots for seed purposes, while the demand for potatoes is expected to be larger in the cities than during normal times, owing to the increased price of bread and other food supplies.

SOAP BERRY OF ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Oct. 4.]

The jaboncello, or soap-berry tree (*Sapindus saponaria*), grows in the humid parts of western Ecuador. It attains a height of about 50 feet and has wide-spreading branches and immense quantities of fruit of the size and shape of cherries. The nearly transparent yellowish skin and pulp surrounding the round black seeds are so saponaceous as to be used instead of soap by many people of Ecuador, being equivalent to more than 50 times their weight of that material.

The hard, polished seeds have been used extensively in Spain and England for waistcoat buttons, for they are very durable and seldom break. They are used also as beads.

Although considerable quantities of the berry are utilized locally, tons of them rot on the ground every year, there being as yet little foreign demand for them. Since they contain a large percentage of saponin, they should be of value in the manufacture of soap.

[Specimens of soap berries from Ecuador may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.]

NIPA-PALM ALCOHOL IN BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

[Vice Consul John Nimmo Wardrop, Sandakan, Sept. 21.]

The British North Borneo Herald recently contained a lengthy discussion of the possibility of introducing the nipa-alcohol industry into this colony. Interest is added to the article by the fact that its author, Mr. Donald M. Matthews, is an American and the newly appointed Chief Forestry Officer of British North Borneo.

The efforts being made to start the manufacture of nipa-palm sugar and alcohol in the Philippine Islands [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 26, 1915; also the issue for Dec. 4, 1911] have aroused interest in the potentialities of British North Borneo, where, although the area of nipa swamp has never been computed, the total is thought to be greater than that of the Philippines. Dense stands are to be found in Labuk Bay, along the northeast coast from Sandakan Bay to Tambisan Island, and in Sandakan Bay. The area of nipa in these three places alone must be well in excess of 50,000 acres, and all this area is easily available from Sandakan. Two hundred acres of nipa under proper management will yield 500 gallons of alcohol a day during the six or seven months the sap flows. It is therefore apparent, says Mr. Matthews, that the visible supply of palms near Sandakan is more than sufficient for the foundation of a large industry.

Added importance is lent to the feasibility of establishing a nipa industry in British North Borneo by the constantly increasing world demand for motor fuel and the ease with which gasoline motors can be adapted to use alcohol.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

Imports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan, during the week ended November 20, 1915, were as follows: Ore, matte, and regulus (copper contents), 518,133 pounds, valued at \$84,269, of which 303,537 pounds came from Peru, 106,400 pounds from Venezuela, and 106,083 pounds from Canada; the imports of pigs, bars, etc., amounted to 6,342,058 pounds, valued at \$1,034,205, of which \$1,826,698 pounds came from England, 1,699,157 pounds from Peru, 1,578,963 pounds from Canada, and 1,237,240 pounds from Chile.

The exports of domestic copper (pigs, bars, etc.) at the customs districts named during the week amounted to 19,551,362 pounds, valued at \$3,609,790, of which 7,318,141 pounds went to France, 5,977,122 pounds to Italy, and 4,009,809 pounds to England.

Wheat Sampler in Demand in South America.

Special Agent S. S. Brill, who made an investigation of the hardware markets of South America for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, brought back with him a grain or wheat sampler equipped with a black leather sheath, which, he states, meets with a large sale in Uruguay. It retails for \$1.45 United States currency. The specimen sampler may be inspected at the New York office of the Bureau; refer to sample No. 203 under file No. 776.

BONE-GLUE INDUSTRY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, Nov. 4.]

Nottinghamshire has long been regarded as an important center of the bone-glue industry of Great Britain. It is estimated that about 700 tons of bones come into this district every week from all parts of the United Kingdom and are converted into glues, animal fats, and fertilizers.

As the shipments arrive they are automatically sorted over to extract any piece of metal or rubbish, and the marrowbones are laid to one side for separate treatment, all others going to the grinding mills and thence to the benzine extractors. The fat thus extracted is sold to soap, glycerin, and stearin works. The bones come from the extractors in a perfectly dry state and are then cleaned and polished, after which they go to the glue rooms, where the glue is extracted by various processes. Many different qualities of glues are made. After the glue has been extracted, the bones are dried and finely ground and either in this condition or after chemical treatment, they are sold to agriculturalists as artificial fertilizers with guaranteed analyses. The marrowbones which are treated separately, are sold for the manufacture of buttons, tooth brushes, and piano keys.

The weekly output of this district is approximately 140 tons of glue, 70 tons of animal fat, and 490 tons of fertilizer. The present market price of glue is about \$175 per ton; animal fat, \$150 per ton; and fertilizer, \$25 per ton. The total value of the weekly output at these prices is approximately \$47,250. During normal times, Nottinghamshire bone products are exported in considerable quantities to all parts of the world, but at present local manufacturers are able, owing to the increased demand and excellent prices realized, to market all of their output in this country.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Hankow, China.....	Dec. 15	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	Dec. 15	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Port au Prince, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Laureno Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 400, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

*The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

RECENT AMERICAN TRADE STATISTICS.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending November 27, 1915, at the 13 principal customs districts of the United States, handling 91 per cent of total imports and exports, based on transactions in the month of September, 1915, follow:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$94,925	\$3,819	\$248,140
Massachusetts (Boston).....	3,138,062	194,705	774,037
New York.....	21,598,028	2,652,066	57,712,535
Philadelphia.....	940,028	146,972	1,373,818
Maryland (Baltimore).....	885,840	87,427	1,910,769
Virginia (Norfolk).....	37,330	12,701	848,096
New Orleans.....	1,290,462	14,410	2,984,882
Galveston.....	38,510	1,599	2,296,977
San Francisco.....	237,276	42,326	717,553
Washington (Seattle).....	2,511,045	19,876	1,974,103
Buffalo.....	785,443	24,213	1,750,965
Chicago.....	464,517	114,371	124,668
Michigan (Detroit).....	764,648	28,030	2,582,968
Total.....	32,937,914	3,342,014	75,300,093

The cotton exported during the week ending November 27, 1915, at the 12 principal cotton districts of the United States follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....		Philadelphia.....		San Francisco.....	
Massachusetts.....	1,108	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	8,792
Maryland.....	931	Virginia.....			
New York.....	7,861	Galveston.....	29,264	Total.....	68,639
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	20,683		

LANCASHIRE COTTON WEAVERS TO RECEIVE WAR BONUS.

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, England, Nov. 4.]

The agitation of the Lancashire Weavers' Amalgamation to secure a 5 per cent war bonus for its members met with its reward on November 3, after months of negotiations and after three distinct refusals. The decision affects some 170,000 members of the Weavers' Amalgamation, and 60,000 other workers connected with the cotton trade, such as overlookers, twistors, drawers, cloth lookers, warehousemen, and the odd hands employed in the warehouses in the weaving section.

It is stated by the local newspapers of to-day that the war bonus will be paid for the first time on the first pay day after January 1, 1916, and is to continue in force for 13 weeks after the official signing of peace; and the agreement contains a clause to the effect that when wages have reverted to existing rates a period of 26 weeks must elapse before any further alteration can be initiated by either side. The effect of the granting of the war bonus to the Lancashire operatives will probably be that it will prevent trouble in the cotton trade for some time to come; at least this is the opinion expressed by those most competent to judge the situation here.

SOUTH AFRICAN OSTRICH FEATHERS AND THE DROUGHT.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Oct. 20.]

The appearance of feathers on the local market during the last two weeks has borne out in a measure the predictions so freely made concerning the scarcity of the ostrich feather in the near future because of previous neglect of the birds and the present drought.

Such feathers as have been on the market are not up to the average standard that has been maintained here for many years. Many of the feathers are thin, scrawny, and present a poor appearance in comparison with former market supplies.

It remains to be seen whether this is a temporary condition, or whether, as many believe, the supply of ostrich feathers for the next two years at least will not only be much less in quantity but decidedly disappointing in quality.

Such feathers as were supplied on the local market during the last two sales were neither attractive nor creditable. The drought still continues, many thousands of small stock have perished, and unless relief is forthcoming soon not only will the ostrich-feather supply be still further decreased, but the supply of wool, mohair, and skins will be materially affected.

In the Aberdeen district alone it is stated that nearly 400,000 head of small stock has perished. Other sections have suffered, and if present conditions continue much longer many farmers will be ruined.

BUILDING ORDINANCES OF GUAYAQUIL.

A recently published pamphlet, in Spanish, containing the building regulations of Guayaquil, Ecuador, has just been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and will be loaned upon request. Among the subjects treated in this pamphlet are building permits, sites, construction materials, buildings, and wharves, with general provisions and prohibitions applicable to building, plumbing, lighting, paving, cleaning, and painting. It is interesting to note that houses must be painted once in eight years, and the whole city is to be freshly painted for the centenary celebration in 1920. Buildings and walls, whether public or private, are not to be disfigured by advertisements. Bulletin boards are to be provided in appropriate places, where the advertiser may post his announcements for stated periods at fixed prices.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 29.]

The New Zealand Government appropriation for railways and roads for 1915-16 amounts to \$8,516,375, a decrease of \$1,216,625 over the previous year. Of the total appropriation \$1,656,977 is for the extension of the line north of Auckland. The total cost of the 2,927 miles of New Zealand Government railways to the close of 1914 was \$165,461,000. During the year 1913-14 there were 91 miles of new lines added to the system. The revenues from the railway lines for the year amounted to \$19,978,233 against \$19,676,856 for 1912-13.

NOTES FROM ARGENTINA.

[Review of River Plate, Oct. 15.]

New Petroleum Wells.

Recent discoveries of springs of petroleum have been made in the southern territory of Neuquen and in the northern province of Salta, and the Government is taking measures to ascertain the extent of these deposits. The oil wells of Comodoro Rivadavia, discovered eight years ago, and now operated by the State, yield 6,000 to 8,000 tons of oil monthly, and an equal amount is imported from Mexico alone, yet these two sources of supply are far from meeting the demand.

The Live-Stock Census.

A new census of the live stock in the Province of Buenos Aires has just been begun. The results of the National census of live stock, taken last year, have not yet been published. The last previous census was taken in 1908.

Plans for Manufacturers' Exhibits in 1916.

A petition has been presented by a group of American agents to the municipal authorities of Buenos Aires for the temporary cession of a site of land on which to erect a building for the exhibits of the United States manufacturers on the occasion of the centenary celebrations in 1916.

The Locust Invasion.

Large swarms of locusts are damaging the wheat crop in the Province of Cordoba. The provincial government has asked the national authorities to supply the farmers free of charge with quantities of zinc sheeting to protect the grain. Fears are expressed that much damage may be done also to the wheat and linseed crops in Santa Fe and Buenos Aires Provinces, as well as to the maize crop later. From Gallegos come reports of a heavy mortality among the sheep, which prefer to die of hunger rather than eat the pasture which has been polluted by the locusts.

Proposed Regulation of Joint-Stock Companies.

The Ministry of Justice has authorized its inspection department to study the question of a reform of existing legislation governing joint-stock companies, and to make a report on the matter before March 31, 1916. The commission is also instructed to submit for the approval of the ministry, before November 1 of this year, proposed forms of balance sheets, rules for valuation of property and stock, and compilation of balances by joint-stock companies. It is the intention to enforce the use of approved forms of balance sheets from December 31 next.

[Review of River Plate, Oct. 22.]

Extra Session of Congress.

Congress has been called to an extra session, beginning November 20, for the sole purpose of considering the budget law for 1916.

Industrial Census of Mendoza.

The department of commerce and industry of the Ministry of Agriculture has just published a report embodying a census of the industries and trades of the Province of Mendoza. The report shows 6,211 establishments in the Province, with annual sales amounting to \$173,001,500.

NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO CENTRAL AMERICA.

[Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 18.]

A new steamship service has been inaugurated between San Francisco and Central American ports by W. R. Grace & Co. The following schedule (subject to change) is announced, and has been confirmed by Mr. H. E. Moore, traffic manager:

Northbound, from Central America:

Melville Dollar (chartered), Acajutla, December 9; Champerico, December 11. *Columbia*, La Union, December 17; Acajutla, December 18; San Jose, December 19; Champerico, December 20; Salina Cruz, December 22.

St. Helens, to call at Salvador and Guatemala ports about 10 days later.

Alvarado, about the middle of January.

Southbound, from San Francisco:

Colusa, early in January, calling at Guatemala and Salvador about January 12, en route to Balboa. Returning, will call at same ports about January 30, and is due back at San Francisco about February 9.

The fortnightly service, it will be noted, is northbound and not southbound, as Grace & Co.'s vessels leave San Francisco fully loaded for the west coast of South America, and make the intermediate calls on the return trip. It is reported that the *Colusa* has just left Santos, Brazil, for San Francisco, with 50,000 bags of coffee, valued at \$750,000—the largest shipment of coffee ever consigned to this port.

NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING RATES FAVOR LONDON.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 28.]

There is still much complaint on the part of merchants in New Zealand relative to freights between New York and this country. It is claimed that rates are higher between New York and New Zealand ports than between New Zealand ports and London, and that now that the Panama Canal is closed, still another advance is made to and from New York. However, the sky is beginning to clear, for new lines are seeking the trade, but even these are quoting rates in favor of London. It seems probable that this will continue until American lines can enter for this business. Recent rates quoted for New York via London on kauri gum were \$17.03 per ton, against but \$12.16 for London, with a primage of 10 per cent and a war surtax of 25 per cent in each case. Now a new line is quoting a new rate to New York of \$14.60, with a primage of 10 per cent and a war surtax of 25 per cent, making the rate \$2.44 more to New York direct than to London, although New York is much nearer to New Zealand than London and entirely without the war zone.

These matters quite seriously affect trade with the United States, and offer a handicap that should be overcome if possible.

OYSTERS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 29.]

Official figures show the oyster catch for the season of 1915 in New Zealand amounted to 9,395 sacks of about 175 pounds each, against 8,068 sacks for the 1914 season. Most of the available oyster beds are found about and north of Auckland, but the Government Fisheries Department has undertaken to transfer rock oysters and large bluff oysters to the sounds and bays further south with the hope that they may be established there, and become a paying industry.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**CANADA.**

[Consul Samuel C. Beat, Calgary, Alberta, Nov. 11.]

Bridge Construction—New School Buildings.

Bridge contractors are looking forward to considerable building next year on account of a large number of washouts this year. It is expected that the Canadian Pacific Railway will let contracts for the construction of a number of bridges to be built in Alberta and British Columbia.

The Separate Board of Education has just adopted plans for the erection of three school buildings in Calgary next year. Work was to have commenced this fall, but delay in the sale of the school bonds postponed action. The buildings will cost approximately \$15,000 each. Bids have not yet been asked for.

HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Oct. 30.]

Limited Amount of Building.

The small volume of new building and the lack of industries in Honduras do not offer much market for construction material. Public work is also simple in character. It has not been customary to call for bids for erecting Government buildings, one just issued being a new departure; this calls for bids for constructing a building adjoining the Administration of Rents, as an extension to the one recently erected. The materials to be used are brick, stone, cement tiles, wood, Venetian blinds, and six iron balconies.

LIBYA.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Tripoli, Oct. 9.]

Flour Mill—Former Contracts Retarded.

A flour mill is being hastily installed in an old building at Tripoli by a contractor who has engaged to grind a "type" flour for the local municipality at 1.50 lire per 100 kilos (\$0.13 per 100 pounds). Machinery is partly Italian and partly Swiss, acquired "second hand" in Italy at a cost of about \$12,000.

Inaccessibility of quarries caused an almost complete suspension of road and other improvements requiring stone. To prevent delay on the harbor works the Spanish walls inclosing the old city are being demolished and converted into concrete.

DEVELOPMENT OF COLORED ENAMELS FOR STOVES.

Experiments have been begun by the United States Bureau of Standards, on the development of ground and finishing coats for cast iron. This research is of timely interest, in view of the tendency at present to decorate coal stoves with various colored enamels. An interesting feature of the work is the fact that all the test pieces were sent to the bureau by a large manufacturer of stoves, who, not knowing that the Bureau already had in mind such an investigation, asked that, if possible, a satisfactory enamel be developed.

A good ground coat has already been developed, as well as a white cover coat for cast-iron stove parts. The white coat produced contains as an opacifier, oxide of antimony in place of the more commonly used, but expensive, tin oxide.

LUMBER TRADE'S IMPORTANCE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, Vancouver, Nov. 5.]

British Columbia, with approximately 120,000,000 acres of timberland, containing, roughly speaking, 400,000,000,000 feet of timber, can be expected to depend largely upon this industry for its present and future commercial development. As it is estimated that the annual increment on the timber area of the Province reaches at least 6,000,000,000 feet board measure, of which only about 1,750,000,000 is now cut and used, there is an excellent opportunity for the expansion of its timber industry, with new and increasing markets developing for its products and manufactures, and better transportation facilities secured, enabling the remotely situated and at present inaccessible timber to be reached.

Provincial figures show that at the beginning of this year there were 334 sawmills and 81 shingle mills in the Province, with a yearly capacity of approximately 2,500,000,000 feet of lumber and 1,500,000,000 shingles.

Prior to the completion of the Canadian transcontinental railways the British Columbia mills depended entirely upon their local and export market. As soon as the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed an entirely new outlet was secured in the prairie Provinces for the output of these mills, which increased also with the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway as towns sprang up and settlers located along these roads. In recent years the demands of this market amounted to more than 50 per cent of the provincial output.

Increased Demand for Timber from Pacific Coast.

The export demand for timber from the Pacific coast has increased from a total water shipment of 595,000,000 feet in 1895 to 1,693,000,000 feet in 1914, the British Columbia share amounting to 54,000,000 and 41,000,000 feet, respectively. Percentages showing the gradual decrease of the Province's share in this trade were: 1895-1899, 8.8 per cent; 1900-1904, 7; 1905-1909, 4.8; 1910-1914, 3; 1914, 2.4 per cent.

With the cessation of the immigration of settlers to the Prairie Provinces, the demand of this market rapidly decreased, and in consequence the British Columbia mills were left with heavy stocks on hand and a large amount of capital invested in plants which bid fair to produce little or no revenue. In consequence steps have been taken by the Provincial Government for the development of its lumber export trade by sending special agents to various countries, by the placing of exhibits in trade centers, and the distribution of books and pamphlets.

[Various features of the lumber trade of British Columbia were presented in a long dispatch from Vancouver, printed in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 1, 1915.]

A Vancouver company recently shipped from its quarry on Nelson Island two granite shafts, each 3 feet by 18 inches, 22 feet long. This quarry furnished the granite used in the construction of the provincial courthouse in Vancouver and the Government buildings in Victoria.

BRISTOL AND WEST AFRICAN TRADE.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, Jr., Bristol, England, Oct. 22.]

At a meeting of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce on August 20 the subject of the development of direct trade in palm kernels between the West Coast of Africa and this port was under discussion. It was stated that all dealers in this locality in any way interested in the proposition had been consulted and seemed to be unanimously in favor of embarking on this trade, provided some assurances could be obtained from the British Government that steps would be taken to protect them adequately from foreign competition, now cut off, but which would be resumed after the war.

The president of the chamber stated that there is little doubt that the volume of trade of this city would insure sufficient freight to make the inauguration of a direct line profitable at present, but there is a good deal of uncertainty as to what will be the condition when certain foreign crushers again enter the field.

At the request of local seed crushers, who a few days ago held a meeting to discuss this matter, the president of the Chamber of Commerce addressed a letter to the British Colonial Secretary urging the Government to give some protection to the proposed industry. It was pointed out that a certain foreign country which before the war was practically in control of this trade had considerably benefited the industry by imposing a heavy import tax on the oil, but allowing the raw products free entry, and the crushers in that country were able to sell the oil at a high profit for domestic consumption.

It was pointed out that the high margin of profit thus obtained would enable them to outbid the British crushers in buying raw material unless the latter were given similar benefits, and also the foreign crusher would be able to sell for export at prices which the British crushers could not afford to offer.

(A previous report on this subject appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 25, 1915.)

REQUIRED MOTOR-VEHICLE EQUIPMENT IN CURAÇAO.

[Consul H. C. von Struve, Curaçao, W. I., Sept. 10.]

In connection with the notice of a trade opportunity, sent from this consulate (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 8, 1915, Opportunity No. 17445), as a result of which a cycle car was imported here, attention has been directed to the requirements of article 12 of the law published in the Official Paper No. 59 of the year 1912.

The requirements are that all motor vehicles to be used on roads must be provided with: An accurately working steering gear; a reverse speed; at least two strong brakes, working independently of each other, under the control of the operator, by which the vehicle may be brought to a standstill at any moment; and at least one horn or siren, the sound of which is distinctly audible at a distance of 100 meters (110 yards).

The car imported had but one brake, and for that reason did not comply with the requirements.

Whale guano is being used extensively by South African farmers. According to the British and South African Export Gazette, it is sold by the Government at \$31.60 per ton f. o. r.

NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF KAURI-GUM TRADE.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 11.]

The New Zealand Government has passed a law authorizing the Minister for Lands to enter into contracts for the purchase of tools and plant for the extraction and treatment of kauri gum, and to purchase and sell gum on any terms and conditions he thinks fit. The minister may in future insert a condition in kauri gum digging licenses that the holder must give the minister the first opportunity of purchasing all gum obtained under the license, otherwise the minister may cancel the license.

It gives the Government power, by order in council, to set apart any area of Crown land not exceeding 10,000 acres in a kauri-gum district for the purpose of promoting the systematic recovery of kauri gum and other valuable products. This land may be leased by the Land Board to approved persons on condition that it is worked for the extraction of kauri gum and that no lease shall extend over more than 3,000 acres, or be for more than 21 years.

Many of the exporters fear it may seriously interfere with the trade in general, and it is a very important industry giving employment to about 6,000 men.

The exports of kauri gum during the four years ending with 1913 were as shown in the following table given by countries and in tons and values:

	1910		1911		1912		1913	
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
United Kingdom and possessions.....	3,385	\$795,532	2,462	\$653,994	2,547	\$586,399	3,532	\$954,311
Germany.....	913	136,340	1,142	165,763	1,053	160,419	833	135,678
United States.....	4,149	1,261,714	3,514	1,018,170	3,894	1,131,782	3,995	1,601,101
All other countries.....	246	49,551	469	87,801	414	74,330	420	51,133
Total.....	8,693	2,263,137	7,587	1,925,708	7,908	1,962,950	8,780	2,672,223

From the above it will be noted that the American market takes the best grades of kauri gum, and this tendency is increasing from year to year.

Where Obtained.

The known kauri-gum fields are all located north of Auckland, New Zealand, and cover about 814,000 acres, of which approximately one-half is known as Crown or Government land. The gum may be found anywhere from the surface to 20 feet down, and often under heavy forests where the standing trees are said to be from 2,000 to 3,000 years old.

Past and Future Supply.

It is stated on good authority that about 350,000 tons of kauri gum have been exported during the past 40 years, valued at \$97,330,000, and it is estimated that there is still an equal amount to be taken from the earth, which means that the supply is good for many years to come, and it is this the Government proposes to regulate. There is talk of imposing an export tax of £1 (\$4.86) per ton.

Prices Increase.

The price of kauri gum is steadily advancing, the average in 1894 having been \$235 per ton, when the quality was much better than it is now, to \$304 for 1913. The heaviest exports were made in 1899 and 1900, when they reached 11,116 and 10,159 tons respectively.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 2802.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for furnishing the following materials. Firms desiring to submit proposals should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving schedule numbers desired: Schedule 9039, evaporated milk, and sugar in sacks; schedule 9040, rubber bands, wire desk baskets, loose-leaf binders, hand blotters, blank books, cardboard filing boxes, typewriter brushes, paper clips, tracing cloth, No. 4 Underwood revolving duplicators, rubber erasers, steel erasers, paper fasteners, letter files, copy and loose-leaf holders, all kinds of ink, inkstands, drawing instruments, half-ounce bottles of typewriter oil, hand-numbering machines, paper fastening machines, mucilage, all kinds of pads, absorbent paper of all kinds, carbon paper, typewriter paper, mucilage paste, lead pencils, penholders, pens, Y. & E. perforators, pins, eyelet punches, pen and stamp racks, waste paper receptacles, typewriter ribbons, rulers, drawing scales, mall and express scales, pencil sharpeners, banker's shears, perforating mimeograph silk, chamois skins, common log slates, dating stamps, pencil pads, etc., thumb tacks, shipping tags, 72-yard spools of red tape, cotton sail twine, and paper weights; schedule 9041, electrical indicator system; schedule 9042, naval rolled bar brass, commercial sheet brass, steel angles, machinery steel, and sheet steel; schedule 9043, southern spruce boards; schedule 9044, yellow pine; schedule 9045, brass bedsteads with springs, mattress wire, mirrors, stearine, and beef tallow; schedule 9046, water-tube boiler; schedule 9047, white oak piles and yellow pine piles; schedule 9048, oil-burning range and towing lights; schedule 9049, 51-inch-wide enameled cloth; schedule 9050, ingot copper and slab zinc; schedule 9051, double emery grinder, 21-inch press drill, 36 and 38-inch band saws, 16-inch universal saw, and single surfacer; schedule 9052, laundry machinery; schedule 9053, coaling baskets, floor sweeping brushes, portable fire extinguishers, rubber air hose, cotton rubber-lined fire hose, wrought pipe, flat-back porcelain urinals; schedule 9054, soda ash, dry Venetian red, and aluminum varnish; schedule 9055, stencil-cutting outfits, hacksaw blades, chisels, breast drills, electric portable radial drills, brass grommets, hammer handles, pliers, screws, and gasoline torches; schedule 9056, silica sand and castor oil; schedule 9057, blue shrunk denim, hangers for paper towels, portable platform scales, paper towels, and china ware; and schedule 9058, mechanical steering gear.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2803.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 8, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port), or Port of Ancon. (Balboa, Canal Zone, Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following: Centrifugal pumps, dipper lips, steel and iron castings, spring plates, pig iron, sheet copper, hatchets, hammers, hand saws, hacksaw blades, machetes, rakes, pliers, spirit levels, anvils, vices, steel clamps, chisels, carpenter's braces, pipe tongs, tinners' shears, planes, drills, drill sockets, bits, pipe dies, taps, files, drill sleeves, copper ferrules, gauges, grease cups, valves, cocks, wagon wheels, water-gauge lamps, lamp chimneys, fire hose, Manila rope, coal-tar pitch, rock salt, lime, chamois skins, paper, and poplar lumber. (Circular No. 992.)

Repair work, No. 2804.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Engineer, Jacksonville, Fla., until December 31, 1915, for repairing breakwater, Fort Taylor, Key West, Fla. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Construction work, No. 2805.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 30, 1915, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of a two-story and basement stone and brick-faced building for the United States post office at Ridgway, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at Ridgway or at the Washington office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2806.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 13, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone, Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following: Motor-driven centrifugal pumps, cast-iron bollards, pinions, steel cable, cold shuts, aluminum plug, stocks and dies, reamers, twist drills, red fiber packing, alcohol, muriatic acid, litharge, Japan drier, lard oil, fish oil, turpentine, red lead, white lead, shellac, varnish, and paints. (Circular No. 933.)

JAPANESE EXPORTATION OF PLAYING CARDS.

[Translation from The Osaka Mainichi for Oct. 26, by Vice Consul and Interpreter E. H. Dooman, Kobe.]

There are many commodities which have been exported from Japan for the first time since the beginning of the war. One of them, the large orders for which have heretofore escaped attention, is playing cards. It is estimated that orders amounting to 500,000 gross have already been received, the price per gross being about 3.50 yen (\$1.75). The total value of the orders exceeds 15,000,000 yen (\$7,500,000). Besides a certain portion being exported to India, these cards are consigned to Europe, the greater part to be used as gifts to soldiers, while the remainder are to be put on the regular market through the English merchants.

The demand in Europe is not concerned with the quality of the cards, it only requires that they be cheap. Accordingly, orders have been collected in Osaka, where a remarkable proficiency has been developed in the art of manufacturing cheaply.

The center of the card-manufacturing industry in Japan is Kioto, where the cards produced are of fairly good quality; the price is about 10 yen (\$5) per gross. While the sale in Europe of this quality is growing, it is nothing like as large as that of the Osaka cards. A demand has arisen for Japanese goods which should last for the duration of the war. The greater number of the cards used are discarded after being used a few times, so orders for large amounts are still expected from such districts. At present the printing establishments all over the city are very much rushed.

The fact that we, who formerly imported cards from Europe and America, have become suppliers to the world is very interesting.

VALUE OF "COMMERCE REPORTS" TO THE EXPORT TRADE.

[Foreign Trade Secretary F. L. Roberts, Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, Nov. 18.]

A former export manager of a prominent motorcycle company of Detroit, Mich., informs the writer that during his three years' connection with the firm he found COMMERCE REPORTS of invaluable assistance in building up an export trade. He further states that in his opinion the publication is worth \$25 a year to a manufacturer who is interested in the export trade.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Machinery, automobiles, bicycles, motor cycles, and photo supplies, No. 19399.—A commercial organization in the United States transmits an inquiry from a man in Peru who desires to communicate with American manufacturers of machinery for compressing air for use in mines; machinery used in creameries; presses to pack wool in bales; automobiles; bicycles; motor cycles; and photo supplies. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Cotton, No. 19400.—A business firm in the United States writes that a firm in Spain desires to communicate with producers and exporters of cotton.

Paints, canned goods, galvanized iron, and zinc, etc., No. 19401.—The commercial agent of the Bureau in New York transmits the name of a firm in Africa which desires to get in touch with American manufacturers of paints, canned goods, galvanized iron and zinc, household furnishings, knit goods, cotton piece goods, and hardware with a view to establishing agencies.

Brass tubes, leather for boots, and pegamoid, No. 19402.—A commercial organization in the United States transmits the name of a man in Spain who desires to communicate with American manufacturers of brass tubes for automobile radiators, leather for boots, and pegamoid. Samples of the brass tubes desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 78.)

Postal cards, No. 19403.—A letter has been received from a man in Canada who desires to communicate with American manufacturers and dealers in Christmas cards.

Hides, honey, and wax, No. 19404.—A commercial organization in the United States transmits an inquiry from a man in Cuba who desires to get in touch with American dealers in hides, bee honey, and wax. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Leather, glass, mirrors, opals, and brassware, No. 19405.—A firm in the United States writes that a man in Java desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of leather, glass, mirrors, opals, and brassware.

General agency, No. 19406.—A special agent of the Bureau writes that a man in Costa Rica desires to communicate with American firms desiring to establish agencies in that country. No particular line is specified.

Hardware, iron and steel products, rubber goods, etc., No. 19407.—A commercial organization in the United States transmits the name of a man in Mexico who desires to secure the agency of American manufacturers of hardware, iron and steel products, machinery for cotton and woolen mills, wood-working machinery, drugs, paints, factory supplies, rubber goods, and men's wearing apparel. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Savings bank, No. 19408.—A firm in the United States writes that its correspondent in Spain has transmitted a sample bronze savings bank, stamped "C. O. Burns Company, New York," together with an inquiry for the name and address of the manufacturer, with a view to placing an order for 1,500 to 2,000 of these banks.

Office supplies, etc., No. 19409.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that a man in that country desires to purchase immediately 500 reams of 40 by 51 centimeter carbon paper, 2,000,000 thumb tacks, 500 gross of indelible pencils, 500 gross of drawing pencils No. 2, 100,000 Bromsilber paper post cards for photographs, 100,000 illustrated and colored Bromsilber post cards, 5,000 gross snap fasteners for women's apparel, and 1,000 sets of drawing instruments.

Cotton piece goods, No. 19410.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in South America that a firm in his district desires to get in touch with American exporters of cotton piece goods with a view to establishing agency connections. The firm is also interested in voiles, oxfords, zephyrs, and cheap printed shirtings. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. Samples of the goods desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. The prices marked on the samples are those formerly paid f. o. b. London or other British ports. (Refer to file No. 68847.)

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 282 Washington, D. C., Thursday, December 2 1915

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EXTENSION OF DANISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Telegram from American consulate general, Copenhagen, received Nov. 27, 1915.]

Cotton goods and dried casein have been added to the list of products subject to embargo in Denmark.

ADDITIONS TO FRENCH EMBARGO LIST.

[Telegram from American consulate general, Paris, Nov. 26, 1915.]

A decree of November 22 prohibits the exportation from France of grape residue, walnuts and other nuts, almonds, fruit stones, gum lac, mica sheets or plates, micanite, vaseline, and sacks of all kinds. The above prohibitions are subject to the usual exceptions.

RESULT OF TRADE OPPORTUNITY.

A demand for road machinery in Russia was called to the attention of American manufacturers through a Trade Opportunity published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in **COMMERCE REPORTS**. The Chamber of Commerce and Commercial Club, of Oakland, Cal., called this opportunity to the attention of a road-machinery company in that State, and the company entered into negotiations with the prospective purchasers in Russia through one of its eastern offices. The result has been the securing of a Russian order by the company, as announced by the Oakland commercial organization to Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, of the Bureau, at San Francisco.

Consul Paul H. Foster reports that 30 tons of cedar were ordered from the United States by a lead-pencil manufacturer of Jerez de la Frontera whom he placed in communication with American shippers and that a dealer in automobiles and supplies in that Spanish city sent in two orders for motor-car supplies, two for tires and tubes, and one for auto luncheon cases through having had his attention called to the catalogues of American makers of these wares which were filed in the Jerez consulate.

BRUSHES IN GERMANY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Nov. 5.]

The Union of German Brush Manufacturers has decided upon an advance of 50 per cent in prices for shipments to Austria-Hungary. Advanced prices for domestic consumption will also be fixed within a short time.

Brooms, brushes, paint brushes, and sieves are classified as a separate group in the German statistics of imports and exports. The importance of this trade will be apparent from the following import and export figures: In 1912 Germany imported 1,491 metric tons (1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds) of these wares, valued at \$545,258, and exported 2,957 metric tons, valued at \$2,806,020. In 1913, the imports were 1,400 tons, valued at \$622,370, and the exports 3,018 tons, valued at \$2,950,010. For the first half of 1914 (latest available figures), the imports were 674 tons, valued at \$215,152, and the exports 1,511 tons, valued at \$1,618,162.

The exports of brushes to the United States from the Breslau consular district during the last six years are as follows: 1909, \$26,156; 1910, \$33,738; 1911, \$65,311; 1912, \$31,254; 1913, \$23,066; 1914, \$23,052.

Germany imports brushes, brooms, etc., principally from the Netherlands, Austria-Hungary, and France, although small quantities of fine hair brushes have also been credited to the United States.

In the export trade Great Britain was by far the best customer, taking altogether about 50 per cent of these goods. Considerable quantities have also been sold to Italy, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Argentina. The United States takes approximately 7 per cent of Germany's total exports, of which this district furnishes about 12 per cent.

QUOTING PRICES FOR SOUTH WALES.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, detailed as vice consul at Swansea, Oct. 20.]

While it is yet too early to know fully the results of the Swansea consulate's trade-extension work during the September quarter, some very gratifying responses have already been reported. One local firm, however, in whose behalf a Trade Opportunity was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 19, and which received numerous letters relating thereto, had the following criticism to offer:

Unfortunately, the majority of the quotations are free-on-rail New York, and most of the prices are in dollars and not in pounds, shillings, and pence. Of course, to firms that lay themselves out for importing goods this would make little difference, but to the general merchant the extra correspondence and arrangement of shipments, etc., would not be profitable. We had no trouble of this kind from the Belgium or German markets.

I called personally upon the manager of this firm, who showed me seven or eight letters that were unsatisfactory in regard to method of quoting. There was one, however, which was well thought out, and in which particular attention had been paid to the points emphasized in the Trade Opportunity, and the manager informed me that he intended giving this firm a trial order at once, being much pleased with the care shown. In most of the reports and Trade Opportunities sent from this consulate emphasis has been laid on the importance of sending quotations in English currency and having them c. i. f. Swansea, instead of f. o. b. New York or elsewhere.

CUBA WANTS DESIGNS FOR "MAINE" MEMORIAL.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The Cuban Maine Memorial Commission, of which Gen. Emilio Nunez, Secretary of Agriculture of Cuba, is chairman, has called for international designs and bids for the Maine memorial which will be erected by the Government of Cuba. The presidential decree on the subject in part reads:

The plans and bids must be in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture, president of the commission, before 11 o'clock on the morning of February 1, 1916, and on February 3 the plans will be opened publicly in the order in which they have been received, and will be exposed to the public for 15 days.

The monument will be raised in the Vedado on a triangular piece of ground formed by streets 17, 19, C, and the Calzado de Vedado. The artists may plan the monument in the form and position which they desire, but it is indispensable that the relics of the battleship which were presented by the United States to the Cuban Government—namely, a turret, two cannon, an anchor, and a chain—should be the motif of the monument.

The plans and bids must be original. The total cost, without including that of placing, may not exceed the sum of \$33,000. Two prizes will be given, one of \$1,500 and the other of \$500, for the best two plans, which will become the property of the State.

Admirable Site Chosen.

The Calzado de Vedado is a wide, paved avenue which skirts the sea from the Malecon, opposite Morro Castle, to and through the Vedado, the most beautiful residential section. The plot of ground is not 400 feet from the water, so the monument will look out upon the entrance to the harbor and be seen by all ships approaching and leaving. Thousands of people pass the spot each day, and a more beautiful location for the memorial could not have been selected.

In a few days I will forward a complete set of photographs showing the exact location of the memorial, the surroundings, etc., and photographs of the guns, turret pieces, chain, and anchor being placed on the ground. [Upon their arrival these photographs may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 780.] Unofficially, I have gained the impression that a design embracing the names of the men who died will make a favorable impression. These names may be obtained from the Navy Department, at Washington.

ROOF GARDENS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 29.]

The first roof garden for Auckland, New Zealand, is to be set apart at the top of a six-story department store now in course of construction. It is to be reached by electric elevators, and tea and rest rooms are to be provided, both for ladies and gentlemen. When the establishment is completed it will be up to date, covering a ground space of about 100 by 100 feet, with all floors occupied by the John Court (Ltd.) department store.

The annual report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia for 1914 contains a statement from the geologist who examined the oil fields of Flathead Valley, in the southeast corner of the Fernie consular district. The results indicated strong possibilities of oil in paying quantities, Consul Thomas D. Bowman reports. A dispatch published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 16, 1915, announced that the first signs of oil were encountered September 20.

CUBA CHANGES TO A NATIONAL MONEY.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The transfer of the monetary system of Cuba from the former condition where there was no national coinage to the use of the new money of the Republic has been effected without causing a ripple on the surface of business, and good results are already being noted.

Formerly Spanish, French, United States, and small quantities of other moneys circulated indiscriminately. On nearly every prominent corner in Cuban cities, and especially in Habana, in news, cigar, and lottery-ticket stands were money changers who did a thriving business out of the wide confusion of values. Many abuses and inconveniences arose from this condition of affairs. Banks and business houses had to keep their accounts in three moneys—Spanish, French, and American—and the values of the various coins were constant causes of misunderstandings and a detriment to commerce generally.

Coins Minted in United States.

Cuba arranged for money of its own, the banks cooperating, and the minting has been done in the United States. A presidential decree of September 11 forbade the use of other than Cuban and American money after December 1. It had the effect of immediately waking the people up to the imminence of the change, and there was a rush to unload accumulations of French and Spanish gold and silver. The money changers protested long and loud for more time; they passed resolutions, obtained a good deal of publicity in the papers, and urged that the change should be made more gradually, but to no avail.

The work of converting foreign coins went on steadily. The banks gathered up large quantities of European silver and gold, shipping most of it to the United States to be minted into Cuban money. Heavy shipments of American money and the Cuban coins came back in return. The money changers did a brisk business for a while, until the stock of hoarded cents, louis, francs, and pesos and smaller foreign tokens had come from hiding places and been converted. Then the "cambistas" had to sell their stocks for American and Cuban money—and found their occupation gone.

The Government and municipalities began paying all obligations in national money, banks began paying it out—and the thing was done. There was some complaint at first owing to a shortage of small change on account of delayed shipments. That has been eliminated, and Cuban silver and fractional coins are being received in sufficient quantities from the mint.

What the Cuban Money Is.

The Cuban money consists of gold, silver, and nickel coins. It is estimated that by January 1 there will be more than \$12,000,000 of this money in circulation. It is on an absolute parity with the money of the United States, and as yet there is possibly more American money in trade channels than Cuban. It is forbidden to take or ship the national money out of the country. No bills have been issued. Some factions of the business and political world favor the issuance of bills direct by the National Treasury; others are equally strong for a national bank of issue. This is a matter yet to be determined and upon which there exists a sharp diversity of opinion. Meanwhile American notes are the only ones to be had. The supply is apparently adequate.

The Cuban gold coins are \$20, \$10, and \$5, bearing on one side, in relief, the head of José Martí and on the other the coat of arms of Cuba half encircled by laurel wreaths. On one side the coin bears the inscription "Patria y Libertad" and the date, and on the other, "Republica de Cuba" and the denomination. Each coin is marked with its fineness. The coins are exceedingly artistic and handsome. The \$5 piece has sprung into great favor and is already known colloquially as the "Martí."

The money is upon the same system as that of the United States, and the dollar sign is used to designate it. The peso, or silver dollar, equals 100 centavos. Instead of a 50-centavo piece, there is the "cuarenta," or 40-centavo coin; the "veinte," or 20-centavo; and the silver 10-centavo piece. There are nickel 5-centavo pieces, and a 2-centavo coin and a 1-centavo coin of nickel. The silver currency bears the coat of arms of Cuba on one side and a five-pointed star surrounded by rays on the other.

RESULTS OF TRADE-EXTENSION WORK IN PANAMA.

[Consul General: Alban G. Snyder, Panama City, Nov. 8.]

During the quarter ended September 30, 1915, the Panama consulate was directly responsible for the following goods being introduced into Panama:

Corn oil for cooking, a substitute for cottonseed oil, manufactured by a New York company and now handled here by a Panama firm. The local manager of this firm says that while it is too early to make any definite statement as to future results, the progress so far is all that could be expected, taking into consideration the newness of the article and the competition.

A mouth wash, manufactured by a Minneapolis company. The local manager says that the demand is all one could expect considering the short time he has had it in stock.

This office also assisted, directly or indirectly, in securing agencies here for companies in St. Louis, Mo., and Newark, N. J., of which we know definitely, while there is reason to believe that other firms were helped in this direction. Several firms to which names were furnished, and in whose interests persons here were consulted, could have secured agents easily had they been reasonable in the terms demanded.

Consuls Should be Informed as to Results Obtained.

In answering commercial inquiries as to the market here, and the names of probable purchasers of various goods, writers are requested to advise this office of the results of their correspondence. This information is desired as a matter of record, in case they are successful, and to enable us, in case they are not successful, to look into the matter and assist them further, if possible.

Only a very few replies have been received, and these, in every case, were from manufacturers who had not succeeded in interesting parties here in their goods. For this reason it is not possible to give a full statement of results. However, several articles are now carried by local merchants which have been the subject of correspondence between the respective manufacturers and this office during the past quarter. Twenty-four catalogues were received and 68 catalogues and circulars distributed.

SHOE POLISHES IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, Nov. 4.]

In view of the increasing activity of the American manufacturers of shoe polishes in reaching out for foreign markets, and their desire to learn something of the trade situation in this section, it is thought that the following brief summary may be of interest to those concerned.

It is important to remember that the city of Manchester, with its numerous prosperous suburban villages and manufacturing towns, has an estimated population, within a radius of 25 miles, of over 3,500,000. The Manchester district, therefore, offers a favorable field for the sale of shoe polishes; in fact, it is believed to be the most attractive selling center for these goods outside of the London area.

In looking over the stocks of several local stores, it was noticed that the English makers of shoe polishes have firmly established their goods on the market. The leading concerns are reported to have spent vast sums in advertising, and their specialties are known to users throughout Great Britain.

A London Distributing Agent Advised.

In the Manchester district there are six manufacturing firms turning out shoe polishes, and supplies are also sent by London makers in large quantities. It is considered very doubtful indeed whether American producers could induce any of the dealers or jobbers here to import polishes direct from the United States. The consulate has been reliably informed by a large wholesale house handling shoe polishes that it would be advisable for the American manufacturer to cater for the trade of the North of England through a distributing agent, located for preference in London. Some advertising help may be desirable, and the exporter must be prepared to assist his distributing agent in every possible way.

Stocks should always be kept on hand, thus insuring prompt delivery. A local store which had worked up quite a demand for a certain American polish has been unable to secure a supply of this particular article since June last.

White shoes are worn very little in Manchester, and there is only a limited demand for any special cleaner for them. Tan shoes have a ready sale throughout the consular district; and although at the present time a large majority of the men folk are engaged with the British Army, it is reported that the sale of brown shoe polish has not materially decreased.

Terms, Prices, and Jobbers' Addresses.

The general terms offered by manufacturers to wholesalers are stated to be 20 per cent off list prices, cash in 30 days, less $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, or $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent discount for cash. Retailers might be allowed anything from 10 per cent to 15 per cent and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for cash in 30 days. Credit methods are, however, difficult to advise upon, as they are so often made by special arrangement.

Retail prices paid by the customer for different classes of British-made shoe polishes are: "Cherry Blossom," in tins, 2, 4, 8, and 12 cents each; "Day & Martin's," in bottles, small size 9 cents, large size 14 cents; "Nugget," No. 3 (black) or No. 4 (brown), 9 cents per tin;

"Ronuk," Nos. 2 and 3 (tube), 11 cents each; "Properts," black or brown, 9 cents, in tins and bottles.

[A list of the leading jobbers handling shoe polishes in Manchester may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69132.]

LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEES COMMENDED BY SECRETARY.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield commended several employees of the United State Bureau of Lighthouses during November for acts performed by them under circumstances in which lives or property were in danger. Many of those whose acts gained this recognition rendered valuable services during the trying conditions caused by the hurricane of September 28 and 29 which visited the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Others gave assistance to disabled motor boats or other craft, and three employees assisted in checking a fire. The persons commended and the special acts recognized were:

Rufus A. Brooks, commanding the lighthouse tender *Jessamine*, for his action in towing the derelict schooner *James H. Hargraves* from mid-channel off Point No Point Light Station, Md., to Cornfield Harbor, Md.

Thomas Robinson, John Erikson, and Joseph Edlund, keeper, first assistant keeper, and second assistant keeper, respectively, at Muskegon Pierhead Range Light Station, Mich., for assisting to check a fire which destroyed two cottages and threatened other cottages near Muskegon Pierhead Range Light Station, Mich.

William L. Kenney, commanding *Relief Light Vessel No. 92*, and other members of the light vessel concerned, for assistance rendered, in the vicinity of Columbia River light-vessel station, to two fishermen in a boat who were unable to proceed after their supply of gasoline became exhausted.

John W. St. G. Gibbon and Christian T. Thomasen, keeper and assistant keeper, respectively, at Head of Passes Light Station, La., for assistance rendered to the crew of the gasoline launch *Shirley*, which was disabled in Southwest Pass, La.

Charles E. Corlett, commanding, and August Wanke, engineer, on North Manitou Shoal *Light Vessel No. 56*, Michigan, for assistance rendered to the motor boat *Why-Not*, which was discovered in the vicinity of *Light Vessel No. 56* in a disabled condition.

The following persons for valuable services rendered by them during the hurricane of September 28 and 29:

David H. McCluskey, commanding Southwest Pass *Light Vessel No. 43*, La.

John Christiansen and Sigurd Greve, seamen on Southwest Pass *Light Vessel No. 43*, La.

Epps Danley, keeper, Pascagoula River Range and Pascagoula River Entrance Lights, Miss.

Frederick A. Schreiber, keeper, Lake Borgne Light Station, Miss.

Fergus H. Johnstons, foreman, Eighth Lighthouse District.

Thomas Zettwoch, keeper, West Rigolets Light Station, La.

Caroline Riddle, keeper, New Canal Light Station, La.

Joseph P. Groux, keeper, Chefuncte River Range Light Station, La.

Hugo A. Succow and Joseph W. Sharp, keeper and assistant keeper, respectively, Pass Manchac Light Station, La.

William W. Bayly, Maurice Durabb, and Junie C. Welch, keeper, first assistant keeper, and second assistant keeper, respectively, Chandeleur Light Station, La.

Alfred Rodi and Steven Coludrovich, keeper and assistant keeper, respectively, South Pass East Jetty Light Station, La.

Charles W. Heartt, keeper, Cubits Gap Light Station, La.

John W. St. G. Gibbon and Christian T. Thomasen, keeper and assistant keeper, respectively, Head of Passes Light Station, La.

E. Grandison, laborer in charge of Ironton Light, La.

Anna Meyer, laborer in charge of Shingle Point Light, La.

Robert G. Miller, keeper, Barataria Bay Light Station, La.

John C. Gray and John P. Anderson, keeper and assistant keeper, respectively, Timbalier Light Station, La.

John McNamara, William H. Oliver, Frank J. LeBouf, and Eugene F. Burke, keeper, first assistant keeper, second assistant keeper, and third assistant keeper, respectively, Ship Shoal Light Station, La.

THE WRONG KIND OF BAG FOR SHIPPING PHOSPHATES.

[Vice Consul Charles H. Heisler, Cape Town, South Africa, Oct. 15.]

Merchants in the Cape Town consular district who have lately been purchasing American superphosphates complain that the bags in which the phosphates are shipped are of poor quality and entirely unsuited for the purpose. Experience has shown that the bags break easily, being unable to withstand the rough handling to which they necessarily are subjected. Hundreds of bags of superphosphate have been unloaded at this port in a damaged condition, the contents partially or wholly lost, and the importer forced to purchase new bags to enable him to deliver the phosphates to his customers.

Two superphosphate bags were obtained by this office, one being a bag used by an English firm, the other a bag obtained from a recent shipment of superphosphate from the United States. The English bag is strong and in excellent condition; the American bag is useless and almost torn in ribbons. The string used for sewing the top of the English bag is rather heavy and of sufficient strength; the American bag has a light string, which is very easily broken. Many of the American bags also open up at the seams.

Much Rebagging Necessary.

One South African importer states that a recent shipment of nearly 3,000 bags of superphosphate from the United States came to hand with practically 2,000 bags burst and useless. Furthermore, he states that since he began importing this class of goods from America he has found it necessary to expend several hundred dollars in replacing the destroyed bags. This carelessness or oversight on the part of the American exporter is severely injuring his trade in this country.

The survey report on a shipment of 2,800 bags of superphosphates shipped from New York to Cape Town reads as follows:

At the request of —, I proceeded to No. 2 South Arm, Cape Town Docks, where I found the — discharging its cargo. The phosphates were being carefully landed, but as the bags touched the quay many of them burst, and I have no doubt a considerable quantity of the contents will be wasted.

I examined the bags and am of opinion that the damage thereto is caused by the action of the superphosphate on the material, the bags in most cases being quite rotten. At the same time, I may state, I have never seen superphosphate packed in more unsuitable bags than these. The inner bag is only fair quality and should have been heavier, while the outer bag is altogether too thin for the purpose. My firm has imported thousands of bags of phosphates and for years we represented the German Australian Steamship Co., which line carried the bulk of the phosphates arriving in Cape Town; but in all my experience I have never come across a shipment in which the bags were so flimsy. Of 1,935 bags which were rebagged on the quay 1,089 were rotten and 846 bags were burst at the seams, the outer bag being only sewn with cotton; in fact, the quality of the outer bag is not considered good enough for bagging sugar, a packet of which contains only 70 pounds, whereas a bag of phosphates contains 200 pounds. A large quantity of phosphate could not be landed in the original bags and was rebagged on board.

Will Result in Loss of Trade.

If the American manufacturer of superphosphate wishes to maintain and increase his hold on this market he must give strict attention to the bags containing his products; he must see that they are strong and durable and well able to withstand rough handling. South African buyers will undoubtedly curtail their purchases of such products

from America if the unsatisfactory conditions now prevailing are not soon remedied.

[The sample bags forwarded by Vice Consul Heisler may be inspected by those interested at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Ask for file No. 69123.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse New York, N. Y.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON MINING.

The Bureau of Mines, Washington, announces the following new monographs, copies of which it will supply on application:

Technical Paper 64. Determination of nitrogen in coal; a comparison of various modifications of the Kjeldahl method with the Dumas method. 25 pp., 5 figs.

Technical Paper 105. Pulmonary disease among miners in the Joplin district, Missouri, and its relation to rock dust in the mines; a preliminary report. 49 pp., 5 pls.

Technical paper 112. The explosibility of acetylene. 15 pp.

Technical paper 116. Miners' wash and change houses, by Joseph H. White. 1915. 27 pp., 3 pls., 3 figs.

Technical Paper 123. Notes on the uses of low-grade fuel in Europe. 37 pp., 4 pls., 4 figs.

CAUSES OF RISE IN PRICE OF SUGAR IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Oct. 29.]

Revista de Economía y Hacienda, published in Madrid, accounts for the recent rise in price of sugar (beet) by showing the following percentages of increase in the cost of raw material over 1914: Sugar-beet seed, 65; Asturian coal, 18.50; coke, 20.69; lubricants, 21.42; material for filtration, 15; sacking, 25.26; cutters, 84.21; accessories and repairs (estimated), 100.

EXPOSITION OF CHINESE PRODUCTS.

[Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, Peking, Oct. 11.]

There is being held in Peking an exposition of Chinese products embracing all of China except the extreme south and southwestern portions. I have visited the exposition on two occasions, first as an honorary guest on the day of opening and then as a sight-seer for the inspection of exhibits. I made notes of the character of the articles displayed, and thinking these may be of interest to the manufacturers of the United States, I give them in the order in which they were listed.

- Silverware, manufactured in Shanghai.
- Cloisonné, made at Peking.
- Silk and silk goods, from Hangchow.
- Lace, cotton thread, and linen, from Chefoo and Swatow.
- Hats, foreign style, felt and straw, from Shantung and Shanghai.
- Traveling cases made of leather, pigskin, and bamboo and cane, from Changsha and Shantung.
- Foreign shoes, made at Shanghai and Changsha.
- Parasols, made in Shanghai and Hunan.
- Bristles, and brushes made therefrom, from North China.
- Foreign leather purses, made at Changsha.
- Military accouterments, made at Tientsin.
- Knives, hair clippers, scissors, choppers, hatchets, bridle bits, door locks, all of modern type, made at Changsha.
- Tooth powders and pastes and foreign medicines put up in foreign packages after the fashion of those in use in foreign countries, made in Shanghai.
- Foreign drums and musical instruments, made at Shanghai.
- Foreign-style collars and buttons, made at Changsha.
- Candles packed in imitation foreign packages, made in various places in China.
- Matches and foreign-style paper, made at Tientsin and Shanghai.
- A large display of toilet soap and washing soap put up in foreign-style packages and made in the shape of foreign goods.
- Disinfectants, drugs, and chemicals, also in imitation foreign packages.
- A goodly assortment of foreign-style inks, also in foreign-type packages, made at Tientsin.
- Bamboo baskets, hair and tooth brushes, hair nets, embroideries, from Shanghai and Hunan.
- Calicos, cotton goods (including socks and handkerchiefs), prints, and woollens in considerable quantities, from various parts of China.
- Foreign-style socks in imitation foreign boxes.
- Foochow lacquer ware.
- Canton carved ivory.
- Changsha bamboo furniture and bamboo wares.
- Cotton towels, imitation foreign style.
- Eyeglasses.
- Glassware, including globes, bottles, drinking glasses, and glass dishes, made at Paoshan, Shantung, and in Shanghai.
- Earthenware tiles.
- Porcelains, including foreign-style porcelain dishes.
- Cereals of all sorts.
- Chinese sauces put up in foreign-style bottles with foreign-style labels.
- Vermicelli, macaroni, put up in foreign style, made in Shantung.
- Wheat flour put up in 50-pound bags in foreign style.
- Cigarettes and cigars in foreign-style boxes with foreign-style labels.
- Tinned fruits, meats, jams, biscuits, and tinned provisions in general, put up in foreign-style tins and labels.
- Wines and liquors also in foreign-style bottles and labels.
- Wax fruit for decorative purposes.
- Foreign-style furniture.
- Wicker furniture.
- Clocks, foreign style, for wall and table.
- Raw cotton.
- Chinese herbs.

Bottled drinks (soda water, sarsaparilla, lemonade, etc.).

Felt shoes, fans, surgical appliances, library apparatus, including botanical, zoological, and natural-history specimens.

Surveying instruments, athletic goods, stationery, hardware, garden tools, stoves, and Chinese carpets and rugs.

A Developing Canning Industry—Other Wares.

Of the above articles and products those which seem to show the greatest promise of development are the tinned provisions, tinned fruits included, for in addition to the varieties that grow elsewhere are those which are peculiar to China, such as lichees, sweet ginger, lungnans, etc. Bamboo shoots and various kinds of fungi are also included in the tinned products. Almond paste, red-rose paste, mandarin fish, hashed pork, salt herring, bacon, beef, duck, cabbage, pigeon eggs, loquat jelly, chicken, and pigs' feet are among those which are placed in foreign-style tins and bearing foreign-style labels. Undoubtedly there is developing in China a large canning industry.

Another line that shows great progress is that of Chinese-made hardware patterned after the foreign types. In the direction of drugs and chemicals, I find a great variety of Chinese-manufactured tooth pastes, perfumes, cosmetics, and soaps, which will undoubtedly begin to increase the importance of this market from year to year. The same is true of inks and stationery.

Foreign-style silk socks of all colors and designs appear in considerable numbers. They are marked from 20 to 25 cents Mexican (approximately 8 to 10 cents United States at present exchange) per pair, and include open-work socks as well as fancy colored ones. Cotton towels manufactured after foreign styles and marked \$1 to \$1.20 Mexican (38 to 46 cents United States) per dozen, with a smaller hand-towel variety. Some of the woolen goods put in imitation foreign packages, consisting of 80 per cent wool and 20 per cent cotton, dark gray, width 7 feet 4 inches, 40 yards per piece, weight 2 pounds per yard, were priced at \$2.70 Mexican (\$1.04 United States).

There was quite an exhibition of foreign-style wines placed in foreign-style bottles with foreign-style labels, and on one the label added: "Makes one greatly satisfied with oneself."

Registration of American Trade-Marks Urged.

China has only recently embarked upon the manufacture of products in imitation of foreign articles and under imitation foreign labels; but undoubtedly there will be a vast increase in this direction as the years go on, and it behooves American manufacturers desirous of securing Far Eastern markets for their products to be very careful to see that their trade-marks are properly registered. Applications for registration can best be made through the United States consulate general at Shanghai and with the American Embassy at Tokyo. The Chinese dealers and consumers place great stress upon the trade-mark or "chop," hence the necessity for guarding against imitations is greater in this country than elsewhere.

Vice Consul H. G. Bretherton, of Aguascalientes, reports that train service out of that Mexican city has of late been irregular because of a lack of coal.

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES OF SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 19.]

Statistics recently published by the authoritative Spanish bureau of Contribución Industrial y de Comercio for the year 1913 shows that there are 57,439 factories of different kinds in the Peninsula. Of these, 7,350 are devoted to various branches of textile manufacture, 2,087 being classified under wool industry, 1,520 cotton, 770 hemp and linen, and 252 silk; mixtures of silk, linen, hemp, jute, wool, and cotton are produced in 334 factories, while factories for other textiles number 1,238. There are 26 lace and tulle factories.

The Wool Industry.

The wool industry has a total of 340,410 spindles, 219,430 of which are in the Province of Barcelona and of the remainder 25,850 are in the Province of Alicante. There are 775 Jacquard power looms, 563 being in the Province of Barcelona, 65 in the Province of Valencia, and 36 in the Province of Alicante. There are 4,959 other power looms, 2,418 being in the Province of Barcelona, 597 in the Province of Gerona, and 414 in the Province of Alicante.

Forty-seven of the 137 Jacquard hand looms in operation are in the Province of Barcelona. The 1,598 ordinary shuttle looms are rather widely distributed, but the Provinces of Barcelona, Burgos, and Malaga have individually the largest proportion. There are 21 hand looms for the manufacture of Turkish or knotted carpets, 18 being in the Province of Madrid, 2 in Alicante, and 1 in Salamanca. In addition to the foregoing there are 400 fulling mills, 383 milling machines, and 466 other finishing machines.

Hemp, Linen, and Cotton Mills.

The hemp and linen industry has 34,940 spindles, 205 power looms with Jacquard apparatus for weaving all classes of cloth, 1,641 power looms without Jacquard, 112 Jacquard hand looms for weaving fine linens and damasks, and 413 ordinary looms for fine material. There are 986 ordinary looms for weaving coarse linen, sackings, and burlaps, and 168 looms for making netting. Eight factories produce rope and twine of flax, hemp, jute, and similar fibers; 18 factories, silk waste and esparto cordage; 82 factories, flax, hemp, jute, and other cordage; and 10 spinning wheels for making wool or hair yarn destined for tapestries or other uses. The hemp and linen industries are centered in the Province of Barcelona, except the ordinary looms for weaving coarse canvas, sackings, burlaps, and the like, which are principally in the Provinces of Valencia, Granada, and Cordova.

In the cotton industry the official statistics show that there are 1,252,910 spindles, 2,859 power looms with Jacquards, 39,841 power looms without Jacquards for weaving cotton goods of all widths, 151 Jacquard hand looms, and 1,025 ordinary shuttles for making piece goods. There are also 2,199 power looms and 100 hand looms for making cotton velvets or corduroys, 273 tables for cutting filling pile by hand, and 180 cloth rollers. The cotton industry of Spain is centered in the Province of Barcelona, where most of the cotton factories are situated, followed by Gerona, Lerida, and Tarragona, while some are in Coruna and the Balearic Islands.

Silk and Mixed Textiles.

The silk industry has 13,700 spindles, 337 power looms, and 340 hand looms with Jacquards for weaving figured silks, velvets, and damasks, 1,357 power looms and 304 hand looms without Jacquards for weaving plain silk, 2 power looms and 36 hand looms with Jacquards, and 11 ordinary hand looms for weaving tissues of silk and other material, such as gold and silver for church vestments and like uses. Most of the silk spinning is done in the Provinces of Valencia and Murcia; the majority of the looms are in the Province of Barcelona.

Textiles composed of silk, linen, hemp, jute, wool, and cotton mixed are produced on 3,765 power looms and hand looms, with and without Jacquards, chiefly situated in the Provinces of Barcelona and Valencia. There are 3,150 spindles for spinning yarns of agave, esparto, and other material not specified; 328 power looms and hand looms for weaving agave and esparto, 184 being in the Province of Alicante and 97 in Gerona. Fifty-five hand looms are devoted to the manufacture of fine mats of rush or straw, 45 of which are in the Province of Alicante. Looms to the number of 1,249 produce different kinds of ribbons, galloons, badges, fringes, and borders, 719 being in the Province of Barcelona and 303 in the Province of Valencia. Spindles numbering 99,430 are devoted to the making of braids and cords, 59,580 being in the Province of Gerona and 33,990 in the Province of Barcelona. Hand looms for making passementerie, totaling 728, are found chiefly in the Province of Tarragona. There are 62 looms for embroidery, insertion, and edging, and 384 for embroidering white goods, of which 335 are in the Province of Barcelona. There are 17 factories for blond-lace and other laces, 45 power looms for embroidered tulles, imitation lace and embroidery, and plain tulles.

Supplementary Establishments—Textile Exports.

Spain has 184 printing, dyeing, and bleaching establishments for all classes of piece goods and 16 for dyeing new thread and yarns bought by the proprietor in the crude state and sold on his own account; 123 dye works which dye goods for the general public; 204 dye works for factories only; 134 plants for bleaching thread or woven goods.

The various textile factories detailed are supplemented by establishments for finishing, pressing, and dressing material, operating altogether 934 machines, 738 of which are in the Province of Barcelona. There are 253 cording machines not in connection with spinning factories, for utilizing waste silk, cotton, wool, hemp, and other textile material. It should be noted that the number of spindles given is the number in use on the day when the inspector visits any given factory. The number thus counted varies somewhat from the actual number existing in Spain.

During the year 1914 Spain exported woolen blankets valued at \$1,825,186; woolen knitted goods valued at \$1,089,590; woolen cloth valued at \$1,428,523; and other manufactures of wool valued at \$2,008,104. The value of the cotton piece goods exported was \$4,801,640, cotton knitted goods \$2,718,151, and cotton thread \$566,546.

SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE FOR SEVEN MONTHS OF YEAR.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, Sept. 23.]

The latest trade returns for the Union of South Africa, as shown by the import and other statistics compiled by the Department of Customs, indicate a gradual return to normal conditions in this country, despite the war. Owing to the uninterrupted progress of the big gold-mining industry on the Rand and in other parts of the Transvaal, Johannesburg and its surrounding territory did not experience that diminution in trade volume suffered in some other sections of South Africa, and whatever depression has existed, owing to restricted imports and exports, now gives signs of an early and almost complete recovery, so far as Johannesburg and the Rand are concerned.

In a recent issue of the Rand (Johannesburg) Daily Mail an interesting review of the conditions, which are of special interest to American manufacturers, was given. The writer says:

Practically all the big firms which control Johannesburg's immense distributing business placed heavy orders at the commencement of the war with British, Italian, and American factories. At first, however, shipping was extremely irregular, and production was thrown into a state of confusion. A year of war has seen the British and French industries reorganized and those of America wonderfully developed. Supplies are now coming forward in much better style from Europe, while American shipping has steadily increased.

Ample Stocks of Foodstuffs, Clothing, etc.

To-day there are ample stocks of foodstuffs, clothing, boots, hardware, and general merchandise in town; but as a general rule prices have gone up. The boot trade has suffered, chiefly owing to the fact that the best leathers came from Germany. Fully nine-tenths of the patent leather came from Germany, and this trade is now being supplied largely by America, although the Americans have not reduced the process to such a fine art as the Germans. The price of British boots has increased by about 22½ per cent, and the price of American boots by about 17½ per cent. The South African factories are helping considerably in the supply of the cheaper lines. In comparatively unimportant lines it has been found impossible to replace the German manufactures. Suede and lisle gloves and the special Brussels and Luxemburg manufactures are also unprocureable. But good British, French, Italian, and American substitutes are available, and the actual volume of trade is now almost normal. There will be an abundance of expensive toys. Dolls, for instance, are at a premium, and the French dolls which will be on the market will be more expensive than those formerly imported from Germany. It is expected that the Christmas display will be every bit as good as in former years, but prices will be higher.

There has been little inconvenience to the hardware trade, except in the cutlery line and in small lines which catered to the poorer classes. The increase in prices in hardware lines has been scarcely appreciable, although there has been a 10 per cent advance in England. Strangely enough, business has been more brisk during the past two months in Johannesburg than at any period during the past two years.

Trade Figures Compared With Those of Last Year.

So far as the trade of the Union is concerned, the imports for July and August of the present year surpassed those for the corresponding months of 1914, which were practically normal. The imports for July, 1914, amounted in value to \$14,647,191, while those for July, 1915, reached a total of \$15,266,618. The August imports this year amounted to \$11,847,022, as compared with \$11,509,763 for August of last year. The decrease in the value of the imports into the Union for the first six months of this year, compared with last year's total for the corresponding period, amounted to \$23,538,414.

At the present rate of recovery, however, the succeeding six months should present a much better showing.

Among the increases lately noted in imports are those in cotton manufactures, drugs and chemicals, wheat, flour, and meal, leather and leather goods, oils, and woolen manufactures. In all of these products the imports in July, 1915, exceeded those for July, 1914. In the matter of exports there is also an encouraging increase of late, but the total value of the exports as published is, of course, much smaller than last year, by reason of the absence of gold export returns and the temporary restriction of the diamond and ostrich-feather trade. There have been notable increases in the exports of wool, much of which now finds a market in the United States; fresh and frozen meats, oats, hides and skins, Angora hair, tobacco, and several other products, while the output of gold is larger than ever before.

The total imports into the Union of South Africa for the first seven months of 1915 amounted in value to \$90,857,555, compared with \$114,863,094 for the corresponding period of the preceding year.

A POSSIBLE MARKET FOR BRUSHES.

[Special Agent S. S. Brill.]

During my hardware-market investigations in South America my attention was called to the fact that imported brushes, chiefly of Continental origin, have a large sale there. A round paint or varnish brush of German manufacture, 2 inches in diameter with $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bristles, is priced at the equivalent of \$3.06, United States currency, per dozen, f. o. b. Hamburg. A German varnish brush half an inch in diameter and with $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bristles costs \$1.75 per dozen at the same port. A horse brush of French make, which has a large sale in Chile and Peru, costs \$1.76 per dozen, f. o. b. Havre.

These prices at Continental ports, however, are no indication of the local quotations, for freight, duties, and other charges often exceed the original cost of the brushes. Taking the horse brush for illustration, the Hamburg price is less than 15 cents each, but when laid down in Lima, Peru, transportation and other expenses have increased the cost to 36 cents each. As it is understood that the freight rates on brushes from the United States are much lower than from Europe at present, it may be worth while for American manufacturers to look into the possibility of extending their trade into the southern republics.

[Samples of the three brushes mentioned are on file in the New York office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, where they may be inspected upon request. Refer to Samples Nos. 206, 207, and 220 of file No. 694.]

Prosperity in Holland.

According to Consul Frank W. Mahin, well-informed business men in Amsterdam estimate that the national wealth of the Netherlands has increased a billion guildens (\$400,000,000) since the war began—a gain of about \$60 per capita of the population. This estimate is based on the prosperity brought to certain industries and on the increased profits from dealings in certain goods.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the **Bureau and its branch offices.**]

General representation, No. 19411.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a firm in Brazil desires to represent manufacturers or exporters wishing to extend their trade in that country. Correspondence may be in English or Portuguese.

Mining locomotives, electric-current meters, etc., No. 19412.—A letter to the Bureau states that a business man in the Netherlands desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of mining locomotives, electric-current meters, furnaces for smelting, hardening, etc., also furnaces fired by liquid fuel, boiler and engine mountings, gauges for all purposes, motor and automobile accessories, and all other articles needed in the mining industry, machine-building mills, etc.

Machinery, No. 19413.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm in Spain desires to purchase machinery for making metal buttons.

Toys, rubber goods, etc., No. 19414.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a man in his district desires to represent manufacturers of toys, rubber goods, and pharmaceutical products and chemicals.

Motor plows, No. 19415.—A report from an American consular officer in England states that a firm desires to obtain catalogues, prices, and full particulars of the various makes of motor-driven plows. The type of plow required is a light, self-contained machine, having a double plowshare and a mounted motor engine. The inquirer also desires particulars regarding light and cheap tractors suitable for drawing plows and other agricultural machinery.

Indelible pencils, No. 19416.—A company in the United Kingdom has requested an American consular officer to furnish names and addresses of firms manufacturing indelible pencils.

Hardwood, No. 19417.—A report from an American consular officer states that a man in Brazil desires to find a market in the United States for hardwood. It is stated that manufacturers of pianos, furniture, etc., might be interested.

Dry goods, leather bags, No. 19418.—A letter to the Bureau from a man in New Zealand states that he desires names and addresses of manufacturers of dry goods, novelties, leather bags, and pocketbooks for men and women.

Agricultural implements, druggists' supplies, etc., No. 19419.—An American consular officer reports that a man in South Africa desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of agricultural implements, druggists' supplies, cheap and medium grade furniture, paints, etc. Full particulars and details are desired.

Mouth organs, No. 19420.—A report from an American consular officer in the United Kingdom states that a firm in his district desires to obtain quotations from manufacturers of harmonicas or mouth organs. Catalogues and price lists with discount sheets are requested. Bank references given.

Dental and surgical supplies, No. 19421.—A company in Ireland informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of dental and surgical instruments, such as ear, nose, and throat instruments, dental supplies, enameled iron hospital ware, sterilizers, kidney dishes, trays, surgical scissors, hypodermic syringes, etc. Prices and terms are requested immediately.

Picture frames and moldings, No. 19422.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm wishes to communicate with manufacturing exporters of picture frames and moldings. Full details should accompany the first communication, including prices, discounts, terms, and, if possible, cuts illustrating different frames.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 283 Washington, D. C., Friday, December 3 1915

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COMMERCE WORKERS EXPECTED TO BE COURTEOUS.

The Secretary of Commerce deems it a privilege to place before the officers and employees of the Department of Commerce all over the world, through **COMMERCE REPORTS**, the following admirable statement, which he commends to their thoughtful consideration. It is one that has been posted prominently in its stations by a well-known railway company, whose commendable example will, it is hoped, find many imitators.

COURTESY.

This railroad believes in courtesy.

It expects its officers and employees to be courteous in all their dealings with passengers, patrons, and one another. It asks that they, in turn, be treated courteously.

The railroad officer and employee, above all others, should be courteous, because the railroad is a semipublic institution. Those who patronize the railroad expect and should receive courteous and helpful treatment.

Courtesy is catching.

Be courteous always. Courtesy makes the rough places much easier, and helps to smooth away life's little difficulties. Courtesy is a business asset, a gain, and never a loss. Courtesy is one mark of a good railroad man.

"Life is not so short but there is always time for courtesy."—Emerson.

In all dealings with the public every representative of the Department of Commerce is requested to apply the above to himself.

SHIPMENT OF TOBACCO TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

[Telegram from American Embassy, London, Nov. 25, 1915.]

The Foreign Office states that the British Government agrees for the present not to interfere with cargoes of tobacco shipped to neutral consignees in neutral countries, and under these circumstances tobacco of all kinds destined for Holland need no longer be consigned to the Netherlands Oversea Trust.

WOMEN'S MUSLIN UNDERWEAR REPORT.

The following letter from Secretary of Commerce Redfield to the President of the United States has been made public:

NOVEMBER 29, 1915.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I beg respectfully to submit herewith a report on the cost of production of women's muslin underwear, being the first of a series of reports preparing by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce concerning the cost of production of different kinds of clothing. It has special interest because of the agitation for a tariff commission based upon the alleged need of some additional means of information on industries and other matters that may be affected by customs duties. All necessary powers for obtaining information on industrial subjects of the kind are now by law vested in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and work of this character is continuously carried on by that service. In connection with an earlier study into the pottery industry, important factories in Great Britain and in Continental Europe were thrown open to the agents of the Bureau and available information was obtained and published.

The extent to which information respecting the cost of production of manufactures is determined and published depends on the appropriations made available for that purpose. The bureau has a competent, trained staff and can enlarge its operations as far and as fast as funds permit.

Your attention is respectfully directed to the fact that the industry upon which report is now made suffers from the lack of an adequate cost-finding system to determine the actual cost of certain grades of production. Many manufacturers in this line admit that the lack of an accurate and uniform method of cost finding is a drawback which seriously interferes with the prosperity of the industry.

Furthermore, it will appear, as is usually the case, that there is no such thing as a fixed cost of production, but said cost is a variable thing, differing in different factories, so that calculations based upon it in one establishment would be sadly at fault as regards another. Suggestions are made under the headings of "Simplified Cost Accounting," which it is hoped may be useful to the industry in this respect.

May I further note the important statement in the report that "in this branch of the clothing industry as well as in most other branches manufacturers make bitter complaints about unjustifiable cancellations of orders and return of goods." The correction of these unfortunate trade practices would go far to placing the industry on a more stable basis. Nevertheless, as the chapter on capital, profit, and turnover shows, the average manufacturing profit on the capital employed in business was 21 per cent, and 34 out of the 65 establishments studied had a manufacturing profit of more than 20 per cent on their capital.

The thanks of the department are due to the association known as the Cotton Garment Manufacturers of New York for their kind cooperation in obtaining the facts shown in the report.

Yours, very truly,

(Signed)

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD, *Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

NOVEMBER EXPORTS FROM LONDON TO UNITED STATES.

[Cablegram from American consulate general at London, Nov. 30.]

The total declared exports from London to the United States during November were valued at \$14,574,267, against \$11,645,565 for October. The value of the principal exports during November was: Rubber, \$4,161,539, compared with \$3,000,720 for October; precious stones, \$1,511,390, against \$1,523,038; furs, \$856,759, against \$676,756; art, \$827,403, against \$642,348; wool, \$815,374, against \$884,648; tin, \$719,187, against \$435,398; and hides, \$674,289, against \$725,909.

BRITISH EMBARGO CHANGES.

[Telegram from American Consulate General, London, Nov. 26, 1915.]

The exportation of cotton wadding, cotton wool, and iron ore of all descriptions to all destinations is now prohibited.

The following item, removed from the list of prohibitions to all destinations, is added to the list of articles under prohibition except to British possessions: Articles used in boot and shoe making, whether by hand or machine, viz, brass rivets, cutlan studs, heel-attaching pins, lasting tacks or rivets (including iron shoe rivets, steel bills, heel tips, heel-tip nails, hobnails of all descriptions, protector studs, and screwing wire). The following items are added to this class: Railway wagons and firearms, unrifled, for sporting purposes (formerly prohibited to certain European countries), and soft soap. The heading in this list, "Surgical bandages and dressings, including butter cloth," is amended by the addition of the following words: "Not including cotton wadding and cotton wool, already prohibited to all destinations."

The list of articles, exportation of which is prohibited to all countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas except allied countries, Spain, and Portugal, has been changed as follows: The item "egg yolk and liquid and albumen" is added; ball clay is added to the item "China clay;" all receptacles made of terneplate are added to the item "terneplates;" and all receptacles made from tinplate are added to the item "tinplate"; cotton wadding and cotton wool are excepted from the embargo to which cotton manufactures and products are subject.

SPANISH ORDERS FOR AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE TIRES.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Oct. 29.]

As a result of a note published by the Seville consulate, in Spanish in the *Revista Comercial*, official journal of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, relative to the sale of American-made automobile tires, a representative of a local firm called and was given the address of the American manufacturer who had written to the consulate.

The manager of the Spanish firm states that it has already received one order from the American manufacturer, which has proved satisfactory in price and quality, and has now sent a second order for ninety tires, and made arrangements with the American manufacturer for a continuous supply of outer casings of European sizes, with regular monthly shipments.

The firm states that it expects to do a large and lucrative business in this line, and is well pleased with the results of the efforts of this office.

EXPERIMENTS WITH HOLLOW TILING.

The hollow-tile floor slabs have been erected by the United States Bureau of Standards, to be tested to destruction at the end of 30 days. This is a commercial test for one of the large manufacturers of hollow tile. For the same manufacturer, four hollow-tile walls were tested transversely. They were 5 feet long, 10 feet high, and 8 inches thick.

OYSTER RESEARCH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, B. C., Nov. 11.]

To promote the oyster industry in British Columbia, the Provincial Government, in June, 1915, instituted research work under the direction of Joseph Stafford, of Montreal. To facilitate this work, the cruiser *Faloma* was used, and the coast waters on the mainland of British Columbia, from Vancouver City to Prince Rupert, and all the coast line of Vancouver Island, were explored.

The research party reports that only one species of native oyster has been found in the British Columbia waters—*Ostrea lurida*, of which kind there are several varieties. Oysters have been reported in some localities under the mistaken impression that the shellfish frequently called rock oyster (*anomia macrochisma*), and rock scallop (*hinnites giganteus*), were oysters. Native oysters or their larvae were found in small quantities at Heriot Bay, Malaspina Inlet, Cortes Island, Campbell Island, Gale Creek, Comox, Deep Bay, Nanoose Bay, Departure Bay, Chemainus, and Salt Spring Island. Native oysters were found in much larger quantities in beds which might prove profitable, at Blunden Harbor, Boundary Bay, and Oyster Harbor.

Eastern and Japanese Oysters Planted.

Oyster Harbor contains planted Eastern oysters and a few from Japan. Several small companies are operating there. Eastern oysters have been planted by the Dominion Government in small quantities in many places, and more recently oyster companies have planted car-load lots at a time at Boundary Bay, Oyster Harbor, Horseshoe Bay, and Esquimalt.

To ascertain whether an oyster bed may prove remunerative, the possibility of the extension of the area, the accessibility of the beds, the proximity to a continuous market, and the means of transport must be carefully considered.

FIBER DOORMATS FOR COSTA RICA.

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San José, Oct. 25.]

American doormats of coconut fiber could probably be sold in San José, and manufacturers or exporters interested in this trade should quote best prices and terms at once to local dealers. [Their names may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 68623.] This consulate will be pleased to distribute small samples of mats to the leading importers, whose stocks are now exhausted. Samples are useless without prices and terms.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS FOR GRECIAN CITIES.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens.]

In connection with the plans for the building of a water supply and sewage system for the cities of Athens and Piraeus, Greece, the opening of bids for which has been postponed from time to time during the past year, it is officially stated that the bids will be examined and an award made on January 2, 1916. [Reports on this subject appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Dec. 26, 1914, and COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 24 and Nov. 10, 1915.]

RED SALMON PROPAGATION IN ALASKA.

Contrary to expectations at the beginning of the spawning season, the Yes Bay (Alaska) hatchery was filled to capacity with eggs of the red salmon, and arrangements were made by the United States Bureau of Fisheries to transfer to the Afognak hatchery from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 eggs of that species, thus relieving the congested condition at Yes Bay and at the same time partially overcoming a shortage in the take at Afognak.

When spawning operations were undertaken at Yes Bay on September 2 the number of spawning salmon accessible was so small that it was feared the season's take of eggs would be the lightest since the establishment of the station in 1906. The red-salmon work at this station has been gradually declining since the fall of 1912, and during the fiscal year 1915 the total egg collections amounted to only 41,000,000. The unfavorable outlook at the beginning of the present season was therefore regarded with some misgiving, but the conditions changed about the middle of September with the sudden entrance into Yes Bay of ripe fish in plentiful numbers, and on September 28, when collections were discontinued after 27 days of continuous fishing, there were 72,000,000 eggs on hand and an abundance of unstripped fish still in the bag. For want of hatching space these fish were allowed to spawn naturally.

HONOLULU DEVELOPS USE OF MOLASSES AS FUEL.

Additional facts regarding the use of molasses produced in Hawaii, as fuel, are furnished in a letter to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from a company in Honolulu. This letter says in part:

Not only has improvement been made in extraction of sugar from the cane, but equal savings have been effected in reducing the losses in the factory from other sources, such as waste molasses and press cake. Until recently 70 per cent to 80 per cent of the exhausted molasses from the Hawaiian factories was thrown away as useless. Furnaces are now being installed which burn this molasses, the heat going to furnish steam for the factory, and the ash from the molasses, which contains 33.32 per cent potash and 4.60 per cent phosphoric acid, is used as fertilizer. The furnace for burning the molasses and recovering potash is also the invention of a local engineer.

[An article on fuel molasses from Hawaii was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 15, 1915, stating that the product was to be shipped to the Pacific coast, where it would compete with California fuel oil].

SOUTHWEST PASS LIGHT VESSEL LAUNCHED.

The successful launching of *Light Vessel No. 102*, now under construction for the Lighthouse Service by the Pusey & Jones Co., of Wilmington, Del., took place on November 27, 1915. When completed this vessel will be stationed at Southwest Pass, entrance to Mississippi River, La., and will be an all-steel vessel, about 10½ feet in length over all, with a molded beam of 25 feet, and a displacement of about 360 tons at a draft of about 11 feet. The vessel will be fitted with a tubular mast, with lantern for the characteristic light, and provided with internal combustion engines, using kerosene as fuel for the propelling machinery and for driving air compressors for the fog-signal apparatus, pumps, and other auxiliaries.

SIAM COMPANY TO BUILD NEW STEAMERS.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Siam, Sept. 27.]

The half-yearly meeting of the Siam Steam Navigation Co. (Ltd.), was held in Bangkok on September 16, 1915. The chairman announced that a contract had been made with a Hongkong company for the building of two new steamers for the coast service. The vessels would be built to British Lloyd's highest class, carry a dead-weight of 1,000 tons, and run 10½ knots. There would be excellent accommodations for 20 first-class and 8 second-class passengers, wide decks, and a very spacious saloon. The boats would be fitted with electric lights and should make a great improvement in the company's fleet. They are expected to be ready in 12 months.

The company now has a fleet of 5 steamers for the trade on the west coast of the Gulf of Siam. These carry passengers and cargo to and from the more important ports of the Malay Peninsula and Singapore. The east coast of the gulf is provided for by 2 steamers, which make weekly trips to the Siamese ports of Chantaboon and Krat. All the steamers are fitted throughout with electric lights and have good accommodations for first-class passengers. The cargoes from Bangkok consist mainly of rice and teakwood, the total shipments amounting to 1,226,269 tons of the former, and 46,921 tons of the latter for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915.

GASOLINE IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Canada, Nov. 15.]

The price of gasoline per gallon since August has increased 47 per cent. This is attributed to numerous causes. Canada imports all her gasoline from the United States. So keen is the competition at Kingston that gasoline is retailed as low as anywhere in the Province of Ontario. In various parts of the Province there is an appreciable disparity in prices, up to 40 per cent or more. In the Canadian Northwest, the prices are exceedingly high; in Winnipeg, for instance, gasoline retails at 30 cents per gallon. Owing to the Dominion Government regulations, the quality of gasoline salable in Canada is better than in other countries.

The number of cars purchased during the past year is the largest ever recorded at Kingston, and motor boats have also made a new record. As a result, there is an increasing demand for American gasoline at this port, and the outlook for 1916 is encouraging.

The importations of gasoline into Canada from the United States have been: In 1910—2,185,341 gallons, valued at \$211,608; 1911—2,600,099 gallons, \$277,037; 1912—2,310,415 gallons, \$337,547; 1913—4,091,173 gallons, \$432,217; 1914—5,138,909 gallons, \$618,506.

DREDGER FOR CHOSEN ORDERED IN THIS COUNTRY.

The representative of the General Electric Co., for Japan, who has been in this country, has informed Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt, at the San Francisco branch office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, that he placed in the United States an order approximating \$150,000 for a dredger to be used in gold mining in Chosen.

A NEW TEXTILE PROCESS DESCRIBED IN LEEDS.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, Oct. 22.]

The following paper describing a new textile process was read at the Leeds University on October 20 by Mr. J. F. Smith, of Leeds:

Before the present war the lengths of the fibers of crossbred wool from the mutton sheep of New Zealand were too long and too strong for their general use in woolen mills. Only the machines in the worsted trades could treat them advantageously. Thanks to a new invention—Smith and Hall's patent—the longest and strongest wools are now rendered harmless and brought within the scope of all the woolen mills in the world.

The said length and strength, not only strained the delicate card wire of the carding machines, but sometimes tore the cards from the cylinders; in proof whereof, two such accidents have occurred in the wool textile department of the University. Yet, the same wool which caused that mischief behaved in the most satisfactory manner after treatment by the new invention. One eminent firm sent a parcel of wool with fibers 10 to 14 inches in length—an impossible length at a woolen mill. Yet, when reduced to 2½ inches it carded and spun splendidly. Several lots of wool with fibers varying in length from 6 to 12 inches were also reduced to the length of merino wool, after which excellent results were obtained at the University, where they were spun.

This new invention does not displace any existing machinery or processes of manufacture, it is simply a preparation of the wool. No matter how long the fibers, they can be reduced to any desired length, after which they may be blended with other wool, rag-wool, shoddy, or cotton. Woven fabrics therefrom assume the wool character (soft and full in the handle) in place of the hard and wiry touch which comes from the worsted processes. No waste is made by this new process, which improves the carding, spinning, and weaving, besides increasing the output in all three stages of manufacture.

OPENING IN ARABIA FOR JITNEY BUSES.

[Vice Consul Arthur G. Watson, Aden, Arabia, Oct. 22.]

At the present time it is possible for American automobile manufacturers to introduce the so-called "jitney" buses in Aden. Horse-drawn carriages are rapidly being replaced and motor cars are carrying the bulk of the passenger traffic. The introduction of a bus that would carry several passengers at a regular fare of 12 cents for the journey from Steamer Point to Crater (about 5 miles) would wrest the business from the carriages. A bus operating with a medium cost per gallon of gasoline would be desirable, owing to the high price of gasoline—now about 36 cents a gallon.

If catalogues, prices, and discounts are sent to this consulate, I shall endeavor to put them before the proper parties.

STOCK RAISERS LISTED IN BRAZILIAN PUBLICATION.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 29.]

The issue of the *Diario Oficial* (Official Gazette) of October 6, 1915, contains, from pages 10,548 to 10,550, the names of cattle raisers in Brazil who registered with the Department of Agriculture during the month of July, this year. In addition to the names, the list also contains the addresses of these stock raisers and the number of cattle each possesses.

[A copy of this publication will be loaned to interested persons on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69,261.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Madrin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Posarío, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys H.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(e) Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 400, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

RISE IN PRICE OF PAPER MATERIAL IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Oct. 29.]

The latest edition of the Revista de Economía y Hacienda, published in Madrid, accounts for the recent rise in price of paper (all classes) by comparing 1914 prices per metric ton (2,204.6 pounds) of raw material with those of 1915. (British pound worth normally \$4.8665):

	1914			1915			Increase.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Per cent.
Esparto and other vegetable fiber.....	3	18	5	4	14	5	20.40
Rags of cotton and other material.....	10	11	2	12	15	0	20.69
Chemical paste.....	8	4	3	9	1	5	10.49
Sawdust.....	2	6	5	2	14	10	18.13
Other materials.....	8	13	5	9	14	0	11.87

MARACAIBO'S COFFEE EXPORTS FOR OCTOBER.

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, Venezuela, Nov. 4.]

Exports of coffee from Maracaibo during October, 1915, were: For New York, 34,055 bags; for Genoa, 1,808 bags; for Amsterdam, 12,379 bags; for Marseille, 1,000 bags; total, 49,242 bags, compared with 34,995 bags for October, 1914.

The average October exports for the last 10 years were 39,317 bags. The total receipts from January 1 to October 31, 1915, were 545,516 bags, weighing 62,581,750 pounds, compared with 474,255 bags, weighing 53,507,400 pounds, in the corresponding months last year.

WOOD-PULP INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA.

For a number of years the Tasmanian Government has been considering the development of a wood-pulp and paper industry to take advantage of its forest and water-power resources and to supply the Australian market. Several resident and English engineers and analysts had reported rather favorably on the prospects and certain State-aided, as well as Government-owned, plants were lately in course of promotion. Before appropriating large sums of money and alienating public lands for these projects, the more conservative members of the Government suggested that an independent investigation be made, and Mr. Henry E. Surface, of the United States Forest Service, was invited to Tasmania for this purpose. The results of his investigations are thus discussed by the *Launceston Weekly Courier*:

A great deal of optimism has been dissipated by the report of Mr. Henry E. Surface, consulting engineer in forest products, Madison, Wis. (U. S. A.), on the possibilities of converting Tasmanian forest timbers into pulp for paper making. The point of the expert's decision is that it is not a practicable scheme; in fact, our woods are not as suitable as some of our nonexpert enthusiasts have been proclaiming. Mr. Surface examined myrtle (or beech), swamp gum, blue gum, and stringy bark, but found that their manufacture into pulp for sale would not be a feasible enterprise from the profit standpoint under the present or even under normal conditions. While the manufacture of the woods into pulp and then into paper could yield a profit under very favorable conditions, yet, he stated, he could not consider it a sound industrial venture and surely not an attractive one.

The main difficulty lies in the woods themselves. Their hardness, natural color, and comparatively short fiber confine their possible use to only one class of pulp, "soda pulp," with a limited usefulness for paper making in general. The comparatively small yield of paper-making fibers that might be obtained from these woods means a comparatively high cost of manufacture. The report unfortunately is distinctly against the venture. At this there will be a general disappointment. All the high hopes that have been built up concerning a vast wood-pulp industry in this State will now be laid aside, as this expert report may be said to have obliterated the prospect of any enterprise in this direction. The small samples of good paper that have been made from our woods were like the gold in some of our mines; the gold is there, but it does not pay to take it out.

In certain world markets Tasmanian timbers are much prized for structural and ornamental work.

BELFAST SEEKS NEW SOURCE OF TOILET ARTICLES.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Ireland, Oct. 29.]

There is an excellent opportunity for American manufacturers of toilet articles to extend their trade in this city. When the European supply of various goods in this line was cut off, Japanese manufacturers obtained a portion of the trade here.

Local merchants state that there is a good opening here at the present time for hair-dressing brushes, shoe brushes, whisk brooms, shaving brushes, nailbrushes, toothbrushes, hat brushes, dressing combs, hair curlers, razors, and razor strops.

[Lists of wholesale druggists in Belfast may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68,961.]

Olive growing is gaining in South Africa.

NOTES FROM CHILE.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Oct. 18.]

Completion of Port at San Antonio.

In a report appearing in the *Diario Oficial* for October 11, it is stated that the port of San Antonio, 110 kilometers (68 miles) from Santiago, is so far completed that coal can now be unloaded at the rate of 500 tons a day. Coal for the State Railways will be unloaded there starting during October.

Railway Construction.

The Aguas Blancas Railway Co. has secured permission to build a branch line about 30 miles long with a 30-inch gauge, from kilometer 35.5 of the existing line to the nitrate fields called Escapada de los Linces. The manager is H. W. Robinson, of Antofagasta.

William Braden has acquired the right to build a railway, either steam or electric, between the mine Potrerillos (Department of Chañaral) and the State Railway near Pueblo Hundido. The gauge is to be 1 meter (3.28 feet) and the line approximately 110 kilometers in length. The address of William Braden is Calle Teatinos entre Catedral y Compañía, Santiago, Chile.

New Companies Organized.

The Arica Agencies Co. has been organized, with headquarters in Arica, to act as agents and representatives. It is capitalized at \$48,665. Jorje E. Zalles, Arica, is a director.

Several new insurance companies, to insure against fire, marine, and other risks, have lately been organized in Chile, among them La Oceana and La Pacifico, each capitalized at \$166,000 and each with headquarters in Valparaiso. Alfredo Gomez, of Iquique, is a director in both companies. At Antofagasta a company has been organized with a like capital to handle the same lines of insurance; Ircano Devoti, of Antofagasta, is a member of its board of directors.

A nitrate company has been organized, called Compañía Salitrera Perseverancia de Antofagasta, with a capital of about \$466,000 and headquarters in Santiago. The company may be addressed at Santiago. Carlos F. de Castro is a director.

Chilean Production of Nitrate.

Official figures of Chile's production of nitrate during the first three months (July–September) of the current nitrate year place the output at 9,857,282 Spanish quintals (of 101.4 pounds), as compared with 13,408,094 quintals and 15,154,614 quintals in the corresponding periods of 1914–15 and 1913–14, respectively. Exports for the quarter totaled 13,720,479 quintals (against 7,876,625 and 11,980,815 quintals), 6,244,625 quintals of which went to Europe and Egypt (against 4,379,768 and 8,615,977 quintals in the corresponding three months of the two preceding nitrate years, respectively), 6,185,562 to the east coast of the United States (against 2,868,328 and 2,557,808 quintals), and 485,947 quintals to the west coast of the United States (against 238,700 and 242,880 quintals).

TRADE-EXTENSION WORK IN SICILY.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Catania, Italy.]

Although I had placed advertisements in the leading newspapers of the Catania district calling attention to the fact that there were to be found on file in this consulate catalogues illustrating American lines of manufactures, the few inquiries and visits resulting convinced me that this form of publicity would be of small aid in advancing American interests. I therefore determined to work on individual rather than on general lines, in visiting firms with catalogues and going into details in a manner not possible in ordinary correspondence.

In connection with this movement, I instituted a practice of making one trip a month to Messina, at present the second city of the district, but destined to again be first—if not the largest city in all Sicily—when the work of reconstruction is completed. (It will be remembered that Messina, together with the city of Reggio on the Italian mainland, was completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1908.) There is a steady demand in that section for structural material such as iron and steel, cement, and lumber. With the outbreak of hostilities, European sources of supply were either much restricted or closed completely and an exceptional opportunity has been presented to American firms to enter the local market.

A Trade Opening That Was Lost.

This office reported on a local firm which was desirous of ending all connections with the Continental houses previously represented and taking up the Sicilian representation for electric supplies of an American company. Correspondence was begun with a concern in the United States and a reply was received from the New York office that no Sicilian general agency would be given out by the company. Within a week a second letter was received, but this time from the Chicago office of the same concern, stating that the Sicilian general agency had been given to a firm in another city in Sicily, through which all orders should be placed. Needless to say the cash order that had been prepared by the Catania firm will not be placed. While an isolated case is a small matter in general business, yet the unpleasant impression created must necessarily work against American trade development.

Contrary to the above and as a direct result of a trade opportunity, American shocks are again being imported into this district, the shipments being highly satisfactory in every particular.

C. I. F. Quotations Wanted.

A feature of export business which American firms often neglect is the quotation of prices c. i. f. European ports. This form of quotation is made by all foreign firms and it should be no very difficult matter for American firms with their excellent facilities to adopt the same system. Local importers ask for c. i. f. quotations in order not only to make comparisons with the prices established by competitors but also to form an estimate as to the possibilities of handling the goods with profit locally. Quotations f. o. b. cars in some inland city of the United States are useless, as small importers can not determine American railroad freights, cartage, dock expenses, insurance, etc., and then arrive at the landed cost of the merchandise, nor will they go to the trouble when they can obtain the c. i. f. quotations they desire from any European manufacturer.

BRAZIL'S FIBERS FOR COMMERCIAL USES.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Oct. 22.]

For a long time past, but particularly since the conditions in Mexico have practically closed that country to manufacturers in the United States as a source of supply for certain textile fibers, American importers have been interested in the possibility of obtaining this class of products from the Latin-American countries. It is, of course, to be believed that for certain purposes the manila fiber (*Musa textilis*) of the Philippines and the *Agave sisalana* of Mexico will not readily be replaced from other sources for many of the industries in which they are used, particularly in the making of ship's hawsers and cables, but there is no apparent reason why the great tropical and subtropical belt of South America should not furnish sufficient fiber for the twine used in the agricultural machine known to farmers as a "binder," or for many other industrial purposes.

Brazil, among its wealth of tropical products throughout its great territory, counts a large number of useful fiber plants. These are used locally, in the interior, to furnish practically all the rope and twine needed. The State of Espirito Santo alone, at its exposition in 1908, showed 18 varieties of fibers used for twine and cordage, and 12 used for sacking and other textiles.

An equally good, if not better, showing is made by the State of Rio de Janeiro, according to the list prepared during an investigation of the resources of that State. In fact, not only these States but the entire Republic of Brazil seems to produce fibers of commercial usefulness.

Unlimited Quantities in State of Espirito Santo.

The consular agent at Victoria says of fiber production: "There are in the State of Espirito Santo unlimited quantities of various fiber plants, all of which are suitable for the manufacture of rope, twine, cord, bagging, etc. They grow wild everywhere, in forests, on mountains, and in dry sandy and stony places. Till now nobody seems to have taken any interest in a fiber industry, although I believe it would give excellent results.

"As to the idea of a partnership between landowners and American suppliers of machinery, there should be no difficulty whatever; but it would be quite indispensable that the American suppliers not only furnish the machinery, but also send out from the United States a few competent men who thoroughly understand the machinery and are well informed as to the manufacturing processes."

Situation in State of São Paulo.

Consul Maddin Summers at São Paulo reported that in the State of São Paulo there were numerous excellent species of textile fibers, giving material for various uses. At present, the cultivation is not extensive, because it does not give satisfactory returns to planters, who prefer to devote their time to more profitable industry.

Consul Arminius T. Haeberle, at Pernambuco, reports as follows: "No fibers are obtainable in commercial quantities. This consulate has also been informed that landowners (there are no growers of fiber) would not care to grow fibers, as they devote all their attention to raising cotton and sugar, which yield large and sure returns. Furthermore, the labor conditions are considered unfavorable. However, I am continuing to hear the opinions of other landowners, hop-

ing that this consulate may succeed in finding one or more who would be willing to enter into partnership with American shippers of machinery. The landowners seem to be afraid of American markets, saying they may get a fair price to-day and a low price to-morrow. But, as I understand it, a partnership would guarantee a market for them.

"This consulate has studied the possibility of finding suitable fiber. There are one or two rope factories, and one manufacturing bagging. These import the raw material, but there is one factory in the interior of the State that makes rope on a small scale from the 'coroa' plant, producing a very strong fiber. The 'gravata' plant produces a fiber suitable for jute sacks. This plant can be easily cultivated, and is also used to make gravata lace. The 'imbiriba' produces a fiber, not very strong, but very soft, and therefore used to tie parts of scuffolding together.

Concession Granted for Exportation of Coconut Products.

"The coconut fiber has been suggested for heavy ropes, but I am informed this is too expensive. Coconuts, although quite plentiful, are not cultivated. One man is said to have a concession for the exportation of coconuts and coconut products in this and other States."

Consul Robert Frazer, jr., at Bahia, sends the following special report on the subject of fibers in his district:

"The only fibers found, or at least of which any use is made here, are piassava and coroa. There are almost certainly no landowners or growers of the palm in this district who would be likely to enter into a partnership with American suppliers of machinery. The tree is not cultivated or grown in plantations, but its products are gathered in the forests by individuals, and collected from them by middlemen in the small towns in the interior."

In the course of an investigation of the fiber question in Brazil, my attention was called to possibilities in the Northern States of the Republic, notably that of Ceara, which is at present devastated by drought, but in whose very dry climate numerous fiber plants flourish when other vegetation dies.

Brazil's exports of vegetable fibers for the past five years, have been small for a country which manufactures its own rope and cord, matting and hats, etc., in such large quantities, in the provincial districts, and which has the fiber plants growing wild over vast regions of the interior.

[Detailed descriptions of the various fibers to be found in the several States of Brazil are given in a more extended article which will be loaned on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69065. Samples also have been received from Brazil, and will be loaned by the Bureau or its branch offices under the same file number. A previous article on piassava fiber from the American consul at Bahia was printed in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 11, 1915. Reference was also made in that article to a former report from the same district in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Apr. 7, 1908.]

[Cablegram from Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

American Decorticating Machines for Tests Desired.

Journalistic interest in rope and twine fiber questions has been aroused here. Officials are asking what our consumption is and on what terms we could furnish decorticating machines. Free samples of the best American machinery for official tests are desired here. A personal request has been made by the Minister of Agriculture.

AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY IN GREEK RAILWAY WORK.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Greece, Oct. 7.]

The area of old and new Greece today is approximately 44,700 square miles, or slightly larger than the State of Virginia, with a population of about 5,000,000. The broken character of the country, its deeply indented coastline, inducing its inhabitants to engage in seafaring pursuits, and the fact that for many centuries the country has had poor communication with the rest of Europe, have caused the construction of railways to be pursued but slowly.

The earliest construction took place in 1869, and after nearly a half century there are in operation to-day only about 1,367 miles of single-track line, ranging from 0.60 to 1.44 meters in width. Of this mileage about 70 per cent lies in old Greece, and the remainder was acquired as a result of the war with Turkey. The need of additional railway lines is realized by the Government, and there are under consideration to-day plans for the construction of main and branch lines totaling 603 miles. The Junction Line, 56 miles long, is slowly approaching completion.

To Furnish Connecting Line with Annexed Provinces.

The traveler from old Greece must in normal times go to Saloniki if he wishes to continue his voyage by rail; otherwise his only recourse is to take ship at Piræus, Putras, or some other port. The Junction Line is intended to do away with this situation. It will furnish at once a connecting line between old Greece and her lately acquired Provinces, with untold possibilities in the way of economic development of the two sections, as well as a gateway through Servia to the rest of Europe. The outbreak of war has done much to retard the work, while the increase in the cost of material has necessitated large increases in the appropriations for the line.

The new railway passes near the seashore, and at Platy effects a junction with the Monastir Railway, distant from Saloniki about 22 miles. Passengers from Athens to Saloniki will make the trip in 12 hours, as compared with 26 to 40 hours by boat, or by train to Chalcis and thence by steamer. Through cars to Servia and to the rest of Europe will not enter Saloniki, but will be diverted and, over a short connecting line of 2 miles, run onto the main line from Saloniki to Belgrade.

Rails, Ties, and Locomotives Bought in United States.

Stations, warehouses, and water tanks for the new line have been completed; station houses in marshy districts are screened, and it is hoped to drain the smaller marshes. Rails and ties for this line, as well as 20 locomotives for the Saloniki-Athens service, were purchased in the United States. The engines are now being set up at Piræus by American engineers. In order to bear the weight of these great tractors, many improvements in the roadbed of the entire line, beginning at Piræus, must be made, and these improvements have been placed at \$1,500,000. Apart from this expenditure, the entire cost of building and equipping the new 59-mile link is estimated at \$2,500,000, or about \$42,000 per mile.

As soon as the line is ready for operation, two trains with dining and sleeping cars will be run each day. Under normal conditions the trip to Vienna will be made in 40 hours and to Paris in 70

hours. With the gradual improvement of the line a reduction in these hours may be anticipated. But even on the basis set forth the saving to the traveler from Athens to Paris or London will be about 40 hours. In connection with the work necessary to be done to place the line in a position to carry the new heavy engines bought in the United States, a memorandum contributed by an engineer who is familiar with conditions says:

Offers Good Opportunity for Bridge Builders.

There seems to be a first-class opportunity for a responsible firm of bridge builders to take up with the Greek Government the matter of the renewal of many of the bridges now in service on the main line. Inasmuch as the present line was designed and equipped for a two-axle loading of 12 metric tons each, and no changes have been made in the bridges since their original installation, the moment seems propitious to make an attempt to secure the business. The new American locomotives have four driving wheels each, with a maximum load per axle of 15 metric tons; it is understood that until these bridges and the roadbed are strengthened, it will not be possible to make use of these locomotives.

The new line being a part of the through Piraeus-Paris route, it must be made to conform sooner or later to the standards of the international system. Very many of the bridges now in service were designed before the general introduction of steel structures, and they are therefore far below present standards. The present situation renders it impossible for European firms to undertake this work, while the ability of American firms to offer quick delivery and insure rapid installation make their chances of success in competing for this business very favorable.

With regard to the new lines to be built, the far greater portion will be in the new Provinces, the network of railways in old Greece being practically completed. During the Turkish occupation, no railways were constructed in either Crete or Epirus. On the island of Crete, 65 miles of line are contemplated, tapping the richest plains of the country and uniting the principal towns. The line projected in Epirus, running from Santa Quaranta to Kalambaka, will not alone unite these two points, but, passing through Jannina, will form a highway across the Pindus Mountains, between the Adriatic and the Aegean seas. The cost of this line, the length of which will be about 130 miles, will be very great, and for this reason its early construction is not expected.

Statistics of Rubber Trade Association of London.

The monthly statistics of the Rubber Trade Association of London, for the 6 months, April-September, 1915, have been forwarded by Vice Consul Richard Westacott, at London. The tables give figures of imports and exports of all kinds of rubber, by countries, for each of these months. They will be loaned to interested persons on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69205.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Shears and scissors, No. 19423.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district desires to receive prices, discounts, terms, and catalogues from American manufacturers and exporters of shears and scissors.

Sugar, No. 19424.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in Greece that a firm in his district desires to receive quotations by cable on A-1 white, granulated, coarse, fine, and cube or domino sugar, in bags of 50 and 100 kilos, in quantities of from 100 to 500 tons. Payments will be made in New York. Quotations should be c. l. f. destination and include $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent commission for the firm. Correspondence may be in English.

Dried fruits, No. 19425.—An American consular officer in Norway writes that a man in his district desires to receive prices from American exporters of dried fruits, such as apricots, peaches, apples, and prunes. Correspondence may be in English.

Picture-frame moldings, No. 19426.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with American manufacturers of picture-frame moldings.

Cascin or lactarene, No. 19427.—The Bureau is informed by an American consular officer in China that there is a possibility of manufacturing casein or lactarene in his district. The prospective manufacturers wish information regarding prices, specifications of purity demanded, and annual quantity consumed.

Dry goods, shirtings, hosiery, etc., No. 19428.—A South American who has been making his headquarters in New York for some time is anxious to represent American firms in Bolivia and Argentina. He is interested in dry goods, cotton shirtings, linens, hosiery, and similar lines.

Mining machinery, etc., No. 19429.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a development company, which holds a mining concession, has decided to purchase American equipment for the operation of a large copper mine. The equipment will consist of a smelter and a small power plant. The engineers who are in charge of the matter are scheduled to arrive in the United States December 27, 1915.

Buttons, No. 19430.—A firm in England writes the Bureau that it desires to receive names and addresses of manufacturers of fresh-water pearl buttons.

Household utensils, etc., No. 19431.—The commercial agent of the Bureau in New York City reports that a man desires to represent American manufacturers of household articles, such as enamel ware, kitchen utensils, etc. Agency connections are desired for Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay. Reference is given.

Coal, No. 19432.—An American consular officer in the East Indies reports a shortage of coal in his district. He submits the names and addresses of a number of purchasers of soft coal.

Iron and steel products, agricultural implements, etc., No. 19433.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile reports that a business man in that country desires to receive catalogues and full information relative to soft steel bars and sheets; galvanized and black tubes and fittings; cement; metal bars, sheets, tubes, wires, and tin plates; galvanized and black corrugated sheets; fencing wire; mining tool and spring steel; bedstead tubes and ornaments; paints, oils, turpentine, and naphtha; agricultural, mining, and industrial machinery, implements, tools, and sundries; traction plows; zinc sheets; cart pine grease; horseshoe nails; soft steel hoops; machinery belting and rosin; oak staves; and accessories for motor cars and electrical goods. He desires to deal direct with manufacturers and producers. Bank reference is given.

Hides and skins, No. 19434.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district desires to export all kinds of hides and skins. The principal market desired is for goat and sheep skins.

Rebuilt typewriters, No. 19435.—An American consular officer in England desires to be supplied with a list of several firms which specialize in the rebuilding of typewriters, and the names of firms which deal in such machines.

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AMERICAN COMPANY PRODUCES SYNTHETIC CAMPHOR.

The establishment of an American factory for the manufacture of synthetic camphor has been brought to the attention of the Department of Commerce by the officers of the company, who propose to enter a market which has been occupied heretofore by foreign camphor. American consumers have been depending upon importations, which, during the fiscal year ended June, 1915, amounted to 4,899,873 pounds, valued at \$1,421,122. The possibility of developing American manufacture to large proportions is emphasized in communications from the American Camphor Corporation, which is operating a factory in Philadelphia.

The new company calls attention to the fact that it is creating a market for turpentine. "To make enough camphor to supply our home industries" it says, "would take over 10,000 barrels of turpentine, as much as is now in store at Savannah, the largest supply market."

DAMAGE TO PHILIPPINE HEMP CROP.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, received the following cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands, dated December 2:

Referring to damage to abaca, Southern Luzon, from typhoon October 23, fiber division forecasts production of about 160,000 bales for Albay and 80,000 bales for Camarines during 1916, as against about 215,000 and 96,000 bales, respectively, this year; total damage 71,000 bales, 80 per cent of which is of grades fair to coarse brown; shortage will not be felt until February or March.

NEW FREIGHT STEAMER FOR HAVRE SERVICE.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, France, Nov. 10.]

A new freight steamer called the *Chateau-Latour* is about to be launched at St. Nazaire for a Havre firm. Its principal characteristics are as follows: Length over all, 88 meters (288.7 feet); width, 11 meters (36 feet); displacement, 2,300 tons; horsepower, 1,800.

AMERICAN TRADE RESULTS IN NORWAY.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Oct. 19.]

Stavanger merchants, during the past quarter, have ordered upward of 30,000 cases of tin plate from American manufacturers, at an estimated value of about \$450,000.

A cigar manufacturer, a large soap and candle factory, and a wool factory have received lists of American exporters in their respective lines from this consulate, and have started negotiations with some of the firms suggested. As a result, the cigar manufacturer has ordered about \$3,000 worth of American tobacco; the soap and candle factory has ordered about \$6,000 worth of caustic soda and tallow and will place orders for quantities of oil fat; and the wool factory was interested in the replies received, and wired regarding an order for worsted yarn, but received no response.

An enterprising agent for a number of American office appliances here made connections with an adding-machine company through a commercial magazine shown him at this consulate. He has now interested a bank in a machine for figuring interest and discounts, and the bank has ordered one of the machines. This same agent established connections with an American dealer in rubber-covered cable, in the same way. A shipment of cable and lamp cord, worth about \$4,000, will soon leave the United States for its Norwegian purchaser.

PHILIPPINE SUGAR-MILL CONTRACT NOT YET AWARDED.

Officials of the Philippine Government, in response to inquiries, have informed the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department that the contract for the sugar central to be erected with Government funds at Isabela, Occidental Negros, will not be awarded until about May, 1916. Cable advices received by the Bureau state that the specifications were issued in November, 1915, that bids will be received up to April 15, 1916, and that the contract will be awarded about one month after the latter date.

It was incorrectly reported from Manila that the contract for this sugar mill had already been awarded, and that the time between the selection of the site and the closing of bids was too short for American machinery makers to submit their bids. It is now announced that copies of the specifications, which follow closely those issued last August, will be forwarded to the Bureau of Insular Affairs for distribution to manufacturers.

FREE ADMISSION OF CORN INTO SPAIN.

[Telegram from American consulate general, Barcelona, Nov. 29, 1915.]

A royal decree published November 26, 1915, suspends the duty on corn (except that for the manufacture of alcohol) imported into Spain after that date, such exemption to continue until the price of corn in Spanish markets (now 23 pesetas per 100 kilos) is reduced to 20 pesetas per 100 kilos and until further notice. The transportation tax, which is levied on most products imported into and exported from Spain, has also been temporarily removed. (Peseta, \$0.193; kilo, 2.2046 pounds.)

AMERICAN BEET SUGAR MAKES NEW RECORD.

Preliminary returns from practically all operating sugar factories in the United States indicate a production of 866,200 short tons of sugar during the current campaign. The area harvested amounted to 624,000 acres, and the beets, 6,462,000 tons. This is the largest acreage and tonnage of beets ever harvested in the United States, and the sugar production exceeds the highest preceding crop, that of 1913, by nearly 133,000 tons.

Imported sugar, however, has been coming in smaller quantities. During the nine months ended September 30, 1915, imports were about 227,000 tons less than during the corresponding nine months of 1914. Approximately one-half of the sugar consumed in the United States is of foreign origin; one-fourth comes from American island possessions, and one-fourth from the beet and cane sugar industries of the United States proper. During the year ended June 30, 1915, about 2,546,000 tons were imported from foreign countries, 1,098,000 came from Hawaii, Porto Rico, and the Philippine Islands, and about 969,000 tons were produced within the United States, making a total of 4,613,000. Exports, which are usually quite small, amounted to 275,000 tons, leaving a net supply of 4,348,000 tons, not counting stocks at the beginning of the season. In 1910-1914 the yearly consumption of sugar in this country averaged nearly 83 pounds per capita.

A preliminary estimate has been made of the beet-sugar campaign of 1915 and comparison made with 1914. The beets were grown and harvested within the calendar years mentioned, but in both years sugar making in some factories continued after December 31. The acreage and production of beets, as in former reports, are credited to the respective States in which the sugar was made. The figures are:

State.	Area harvested.		Beets used for sugar.		Sugar production.	
	1915, preliminary.	1914, final.	1915, preliminary.	1914, final.	1915, preliminary.	1914, final.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
California.....	124,207	104,000	1,280,000	1,082,000	202,700	169,004
Colorado.....	160,800	135,400	1,820,000	1,706,300	237,100	220,799
Idaho.....	35,900	25,300	375,000	264,400	52,700	39,613
Michigan.....	123,300	101,300	1,071,000	857,000	129,300	110,630
Ohio.....	26,100	17,800	289,000	184,700	32,100	21,425
Utah.....	59,400	41,300	691,000	564,600	87,300	78,619
Other States.....	93,500	58,300	978,000	629,500	123,700	81,964
Total for United States.	624,000	483,400	6,462,000	5,288,500	866,200	722,054

Total value of the beet crop to producers: In 1915, about \$35,800,000; in 1914, \$30,433,000.

KELP BEDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 26.]

The kelp beds of British Columbia are said to be capable of furnishing annually 235,000 tons of potash, which, figured at \$50 per ton, would amount to \$11,750,000. The iodine obtained, at the rate of \$3,875 per ton, would amount to \$3,680,000. The total calculated value of these two by-products of kelp (at prewar prices) would thus amount to \$15,000,000 per annum.

THE VINTAGE OF 1915 IN HUNGARY.

[Vice Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Budapest, Nov. 5.]

The official report on the condition of the vineyards and the results of the vintage for the period ending October 21, 1915, contains the following information concerning this year's wine crop in Hungary:

Budapest district: As a result of continued rains, harvesting is at a standstill. Contracts for new wine have been closed at \$0.61 to \$0.69 per gallon.

Szekszarder district: The vintage is at an end and in general can be considered rather below normal in quantity, averaging only 60 to 74 gallons per acre. In quality the wine promises better than in the preceding year. The price of the new wine in this district is \$0.69 to \$0.76 per gallon.

Pecser district: The vintage, which is already terminated, has been light in many places. The quality of the wine is good. Sales of new wine have been made at \$0.76 per gallon.

Tapolcaer district: The continued downpour has retarded the vintage, which turned out weak and mediocre. The price of the new wine varies from \$0.53 to \$0.80 per gallon.

Exceptional Yield in Certain Mountain Vineyards.

Soproner district: The vintage will probably last until the end of October. In general the result is good. The greater part of the red wine has been sold as mash at \$0.46 to \$0.61 per gallon.

Pozsonyer district: In the mountain vineyards the vintage has yielded from 278 to 556 gallons per acre; in exceptional cases up to 2,500 gallons. In the valleys the yield was only 90 to 180 gallons per acre. The price of the new wine varies between \$0.38 and \$0.61 per gallon.

Balassgyarmater district: The result of the vintage, which is for the most part terminated, varies between 60 and 600 gallons per acre, while the prices of the new wine range from \$0.46 to \$0.76 per gallon.

Egerer district: The crop in the mountain vineyards was average; in the valleys and sandy soils, weak or even poor. The new wine sells for \$0.53 to \$0.65 per gallon.

Miskolcer district: In a scarcely average vintage the new wine brings from \$0.53 to \$0.65 per gallon.

Tarcaler district: The rain has caused great damage. Vineyards damaged by frost and hail have produced only from 134 to 150 gallons per acre. However, in many places from 400 to 600 gallons per acre were obtained. New wine was sold for \$1.23 to \$1.32 per gallon.

Beregszaszer district: The quantity of the crop is average; the quality rather good. Only in Szabolcs County is the yield weak.

Szatmarer district: The vintage is in progress. The sugar content of the new wine is anywhere from 14 to 26 per cent. The yield is abundant.

Dry Weather Improves Meneser Vintage.

Bihardioszeger district: The yield averages 148 gallons per acre. The price of the new wine is between \$0.46 and \$0.61 per gallon.

Meneser district: The recent dry weather has greatly improved the quality of the vintage. The yield per acre has been from 298 to 370 gallons.

Fehertemplomer district: There is a steady demand for new wine at from \$0.69 to \$0.76. The yield is favorable.

Dicoszentmartoner district: The climatic conditions have been favorable for the vintage, and the yield was from 370 to 556 gallons per acre.

Marosvasarhelyer district: The crop is average. The yield per acre is from 185 to 221 gallons, and the new wine is bringing between \$0.61 and \$0.76 per gallon.

SUGAR CROP IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

[Consul Charles L. Hoover, Prague, Bohemia, Nov. 9.]

One of the Prague banks has just completed an investigation of the condition of the sugar-beet industry throughout Austria-Hungary and has made public the following comparative data:

District.	Number of fac.ories.		Beet crop.		Sugar yield.	
	1914-15	1915-16	1914-15	1915-16	1914-15	1915-16
			<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Bohemia	108	104	4,170,200	2,088,400	720,124	484,300
Moravia	57	56	2,703,300	1,923,400	449,213	298,650
Hungary and Bosnia.....	31	28	3,147,000	1,793,300	432,978	249,850
Total.....	196	188	10,000,500	6,705,100	1,602,315	1,032,800

In Bohemia two factories were closed because the territory from which they formerly drew their supplies of beets could be served equally well by neighboring factories belonging to the same company. Two other factories burned down.

From present appearances the average production per acre will be about the same as last year in spite of the unfavorable weather that existed up to the 1st of July. Only about 3 per cent of the plantings were lost as a result of the drought, the greater part of the decline in area planted having been due to the increase in the acreage planted to grain. The price of beets fluctuated between 31 and 34 crowns per metric ton of 2,204.6 pounds; the price last year was 22 to 24 crowns. [The normal exchange rate for the Austro-Hungarian crown is \$0.203.]

MARKET FOR QUILLS IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, Nov. 3.]

The Smallholder, an English periodical, in the issue of October 30, 1915, gives the following prices paid for quills: Large goose quills, per hundredweight of 112 pounds, \$12.17 to \$14.60; small goose quills, \$7.30 to \$9.73; large turkey quills, \$12.17 to \$14.60; large duck quills, \$6.09 to \$7.30.

It appears that the quills used for commercial purposes have hitherto come largely from Austria and Germany. Present supplies are reported to be inadequate, and The Smallholder calls upon British poultrymen to meet the requirements, stating that the quills should be tied in half-pound bundles with all the barrel ends pointing the same way.

ALUMINUM AND ENAMEL WARE MARKET IN WESTERN GREECE.

[Vice Consul William A. Birgfeld, Patras, Oct. 28.]

The local market for enameled metal ware and aluminum goods had until the beginning of the present war satisfied its needs in European markets, drawing principally from Austria, Germany, France, and England, in the order named. The classes of goods are the usual household articles, such as kitchen utensils, washing basins, pots, cutlery (aluminum), etc. Trade in enamel ware is fairly well developed, whereas aluminum ware is still a comparatively new article, but is gaining rapidly as it becomes better known.

Imports—Duty—Terms.

Three grades of each kind of ware are used in Greece. England sends only the first quality of enameled ware, France only the second, and Germany and Austria the second and third. Of aluminum ware, Germany, France, and Austria sent all three grades. Terms of credit were usually three to six months, against promissory notes issued on delivery. Since the commencement of the war exports from Germany and Austria to this country have practically stopped. Merchants have chiefly been engaged in selling off their old stocks and obtaining limited supplies from France and England.

It is the opinion of the writer that, as imports from the latter countries are greatly hampered, it would be the proper time for American exporters to enter the field.

The duty is as follows: Enameled ware, \$0.099 per pound; aluminum ware, \$0.198 per pound.

Light-weight wares would be more satisfactory for this market, since they would have to pay less duty. At present credits have been greatly restricted by French and English exporters. Payments are mostly effected cash against documents at destination, and are handled through local banks. American exporters must, however, bear in mind that as soon as conditions are again normal European exporters will resume the credits, and if Americans wish to hold the ground gained, they must be prepared to follow. Any possible risks that might be involved in the granting of credits would be greatly diminished if exporters handled their orders through responsible commission agents here, who in many instances personally guarantee the reliability of their clients.

[A list of dealers in enameled and aluminum ware and a list of import agents at Patras may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.]

PROPOSED CANADIAN CUSTOMS OFFICER AT NEW YORK.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul at Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 27.]

The Vancouver, Victoria, and New Westminster Boards of Trade and representatives of Vancouver financial institutions are reported to have indorsed a proposal urging the Government of the Dominion of Canada to station a Canadian customs official at New York for the purpose of facilitating the shipment of British Columbia products via the Panama Canal to New York City and thence in bond by rail or by water to eastern Canadian points. It is also suggested that this plan would make possible the shipment of eastern Canadian products to the West via the same route.

NEW ZEALAND WHEAT MAKES BETTER SHOWING.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 27.]

The supply found when a census was taken of the actual quantity of wheat thrashed makes a much more favorable showing for the 1914-15 wheat crop of New Zealand than did the estimates given out last March by the Dominion Government [see COMMERCE REPORTS for June 7, 1915]. The New Zealand Herald recently published the following official explanation of the discrepancy:

As a result of inquiries it is found that the previously published area under wheat for the 1914-15 season was understated to the extent of about 40,000 acres, due partly to the nonfurnishing of returns and partly to increased sowings of wheat after the returns were sent in. The latest information puts a very different complexion on the position, as the following comparison with recent years will clearly show:

Year.	Acres.	Yield per acre.	Total yield.
		<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
1910-11.....	322,167	25.73	8,280,221
1911-12.....	215,588	33.60	7,241,133
1912-13.....	189,869	27.28	5,179,626
1913-14.....	166,774	31.37	5,231,700
1914-15.....	229,000	28.94	6,641,336

This will leave quite a surplus for next season, which may be seriously needed if the lack of rain in the wheat belt continues much longer. To date the rainfall in the wheat belt of the South Island has been scarcely 50 per cent of normal and the sowing season is well advanced.

USE OF PRESSBOARD IN LIVERPOOL.

[Consul Horace Lee Washington, Liverpool, England, Oct. 25.]

The Liverpool consulate has received an inquiry from manufacturers of pressboards, used for insulating purposes in the manufacture of armature coils, etc. A representative of the consulate interviewed several Liverpool firms, and a sample of press paper which had been received was exhibited to them. It appears, however, that the amount of press paper used here in the electrical trade for insulating purposes is very small, and it is suggested that better results would be obtained by approaching an importer of the article. One firm, situated in London, has been mentioned as that of a large dealer in press papers, from whom the electrical trade in Liverpool largely receives its supplies. A Liverpool firm expresses a desire to receive further particulars as to prices, etc.

[The names and addresses of the London and Liverpool firms may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68926.]

TONNAGE DUES AT HAVRE.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, France, Nov. 10.]

The total amount of tonnage dues collected in the port of Havre in the first 10 months of 1915 was \$125,813, as compared with \$213,766 in the corresponding period of 1914.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he received in stock during the week ended November 27 the following new United States Government publications, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Information Concerning Some of the Principal Navies of the World—a series of tables compiled to answer popular inquiry. Office of Naval Intelligence, 1915, reprint.—Epitome of the world's naval situation, covering relative orders of warship tonnage, warship tonnage of the principal naval powers, active personnel, vessels built, vessels building, types, expenditures, air craft, etc. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Ephemeris of the Sun and Polaris, and Tables of Azimuths of Polaris, for the year 1916, issued by the General Land Office as a supplement to the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the survey of public land of the United States, containing Greenwich tables for the sun and polaris, azimuths of polaris, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

A Teacher's Professional Library, Classified List of One Hundred Titles, Education Bureau Bulletin 8, 1909, reprint.—List of 100 useful books for teachers, including encyclopedias, history, theory of education, principles and practice of teaching, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

School Administration in the Smaller Cities, Education Bureau Bulletin 44, 1915.—Covering the constitution of the school board, embracing size, how to elect, length of term, qualifications, etc., officers, finance, school superintendent, principals, supervisors, teachers, health inspectors, etc. Price, paper, 25 cents.

Teak in Siam and Indo-China, Special Agents' Series 108.—Covering properties and uses of teak and general situation of the teak industry and markets in Siam and Indo-China, including transportation, grades, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

The Interpretation of Topographic Maps, Geological Survey Professional Paper 60.—Covers the features of topographic, geologic maps, and various groups thereof, containing maps and illustrations, both colored and photographic. Price, paper, \$2.75.

The Geology and Ore Deposits of the Coeur d'Alene District, Idaho, Geological Survey Professional Paper 62.—Gives description of location and area of the district, general geology, economic geology, description of the lead-silver, coal deposits, etc. Price, paper, 85 cents.

Terms Used in Forestry and Logging, Forest Service Bulletin 61.—Terms used in forestry and lumbering, alphabetically arranged. Price, paper, 5 cents.

The Dog as a Carrier of Parasites and Disease, Agriculture Department Bulletin 260.—Covering rabies, hydatid, cysticercus (measles), tapeworms, roundworms, fleas, ticks, and other parasites and diseases disseminated by the dog. Price, paper, 5 cents.

The Handling and Marketing of the Arizona-Egyptian Cotton of the Salt River Valley, Agriculture Department Bulletin 311.—Covering clean picking and storage of seed, ginning, sampling, baling and covering, compression, tagging, marking, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

The Persian Walnut Industry of the United States, Plant Industry Bulletin 254, reprint.—The Persian walnut is commonly known as

the English walnut, and the work gives a description of the tree, distribution, climatic conditions, varieties, propagation, pruning, cultivation of the orchard, pests, etc. Price, paper, 20 cents.

Soil Conservation, Farmers' Bulletin 406.—Work by W. J. Spillman on care of the soil, including disposal of land by the Government, importance of soil food, types of farming, effect of legumes, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

The Home Production of Onion Seed and Sets, Farmers' Bulletin 434, reprint.—Practical work on the cultivation of the onion for home use, including selection and care of seed, care of bulbs, cultivation, preparation of the soil, fertilizers, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goo-trich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 400, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

*The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

MOLYBDENUM AND TUNGSTEN DEPOSITS IN CHILE.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Nov. 8.]

Newspaper reports of recent date state that at the mining community of Campanany, in the Province of Tacna, Chile, there exist considerable deposits of molybdenum and wolfram, in addition to copper sulphides. While the mines have not been developed, samples of the ores have been sent to Europe for the purpose of finding a market for the minerals. The address of the president of the mining community is Sr. Jorge Romussi, Iquique, Chile.

Newspaper reports also state that a good vein of wolfram has been discovered in the property of the Cia. Estañifera del Llallagua, at Llallagua, Bolivia. The principal office of this company is at Santiago, Chile.

The foregoing information is forwarded for the benefit of American manufacturers of tool steels who may be interested in learning of possible sources of supply of these metals.

DIRECT TRADE IN MADAGASCAR GEMS.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave.]

The Governor General of Madagascar and Dependencies, whose cooperation for the development of trade relations between Madagascar and the United States I am endeavoring to enlist, appears to be anxious that American importers become interested in local precious stones and rough gem material, which, heretofore, have been purchased principally by Continental concerns. It is understood that American firms have, to some extent, bought Madagascar pink beryl, or "morganite,"* and other stones of local origin on the European market; but the desire is to create, if possible, some direct business in this line between the United States and Madagascar. The Governor General has, therefore, voluntarily supplied samples of certain of the local gems and a schedule of approximate prices for cut and rough stones.

[The stones comprise 1 pink beryl, 2 cordierites, 1 amethyst, 1 spessartite, 2 blue beryls, 1 white beryl, 2 yellow beryls, 1 rubellite, and 3 pink and 3 blue beryls in the rough. These and the schedule of prices may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. A list of firms and individuals interested in precious-stone mining in Madagascar will be furnished upon application; refer to file No. 60558.]

MADAGASCAR, THE LAND OF BERYLS.

Mere mention of Madagascar has long conjured up visions of fabulous deposits of precious stones, for legends concerning its great mineral wealth have been inseparable from its history ever since the island was opened up to the world, but little that was authoritative has ever been published. In 1912 the Smithsonian Institution at Washington translated by permission and incorporated in its Report for that year an interesting review of Madagascar's gem resources as revealed by an account of the explorations of A. Lacroix, of l'Institute de France.

M. Lacroix used the primitive Madagascar filanzenne (a seat hung between two poles carried by stalwart natives) in his journeyings, and was thus able to get away from the beaten highways and into the little-known interior of the island. He found that all the deposits of precious (or, more properly, semiprecious) stones occur in a great rectangle 125 miles from north to south and 40 miles from east to west. The principal centers are to the northwest of Antsirabe, the outskirts of Miandrarivo (Ampangabe in particular); to the west of Antsirabe, the region situated to the west (Anjanaboana) and to the south of Betafo (Tongafeno, Antsongombato, Zamalaza,

* Regarding morganite, the New York press contained the following interesting item: "A newly discovered gem of brilliant rose color was christened morganite by the New York Academy of Science. It was named for J. Pierpont Morgan, on the suggestion of Dr. George F. Kunz, chairman of the geological section of the academy. Dr. Kunz thought that Mr. Morgan had earned the honor by the encouragement which he has given art and science in America and Europe. Morganite, Dr. Kunz said, is a species of beryl. 'It was discovered in its perfection in the present year and differs from other beryls in that it fluoresces an intense cherry red when exposed to Roentgen rays. It is found in magnificent gems weighing from 1 to 100 carats each and is of a beautiful brilliant rose color of wonderful freedom from flaws. It is the purest pink gem that has been found in large gems, rivaling pink tourmaline and pink topaz, and is found principally in the mountainous region of Mount Bity, an island off the coast of Madagascar.'"

etc.); to the south of Antsirabe, the valley of the Sahantany River and its vicinity; Sahaniivotry, to the east of Mount Bity, then more to the south on the other side of the Manandona, a series of beds situated to the northwest and to the west of Ambositra; and then still farther south, the region of Ikalamavony.

The Island's Long List of Gems.

The valley of the Sahantany River may be taken as an example. M. Lacroix stated that here he found beryls of great size, some measuring 3 feet, but he explains that only portions of these huge crystals were transparent. Their colors ranged from the wanted blues and greens (aquamarines) to yellow and rose (morganite), and there were also colorless varieties. The stones most highly esteemed are those of a sky-blue shade from Ampangabe and a special dark blue, with a black tint, from Tongafeno, Fefena, and vicinity. The Sahantany transparent tourmalines are beautiful gems, running all the possible gamut of colors from pigeon-blood and reds more or less tinged with violet to the most delicate rose, some greens and blues, some browns with now and then a smoky tint, some golden yellows, and one of dazzling gold. The mineral deposits rich in rubies and sapphires lie north of Ankaratra.

M. Lacroix found spodumene (a mineral of the pyroxene group, and almost everywhere else opaque) in limpid form, of a beautiful rose color with a tinge of lilac, rivaling the kunzite of California, and deposits of spessartite of an orange color peculiar to Madagascar, and danburite. Apatite, rhodizite, microcline, albite, lepidolite, corundums (in the form of transparent sapphires, in addition to the opaque crystals used only as abrasives), garnets with a range of color from dark red to a pretty rose, chrysobel, spinel, zircons, and topaz are other stones in Madagascar's long list of gems. Kornerupine, a magnesium aluminum silicate resembling the aquamarine and the green andalusite but of far greater brilliancy when cut, was also found; until this discovery Greenland had the only known deposit of this mineral.

The opal, too, is found in Madagascar, but is not yet quarried. Specimens from the south of Faratsiho recall the fire opal, but with a tint more brown than red.

AMERICAN GEM OUTPUT AND TRADE.

Mining of precious stones in the United States has been a variable industry since its beginning. Most of the gem minerals have been sporadically mined or found during the course of mining for other minerals and only a few varieties have been systematically mined for periods of years at a time. Among those minerals which have been most persistently produced, and in some quantity at different times, are sapphire, turquoise, tourmaline, spodumene, and chrysoprase. A few other gems such as beryl, garnet, quartz, agate, amazon stone, rose quartz, and variscite have been produced somewhat regularly, but generally in small quantity.

George F. Kunz, summarizing the production and the localities of the different gem minerals in 1882, mentions the following:

Occasional diamonds had been found in several States. Sapphire was known to occur along Missouri River near Helena. Mont., and

both ruby and sapphire at the Jenks corundum mine in Macon county, N. C. Topaz had been found in Maine and Colorado. Emerald and hiddenite had been discovered 16 years before in Alexander county, N. C. Aquamarine and other beryl were obtained from several of the Eastern States. Garnets, called "Arizona ruby," were being collected each year by the Navajo Indians in some quantity. Tourmaline had been mined for many years at Mount Mica, near Paris, Me., and was known to occur at other localities and also in Connecticut. Quartz and rock crystal were obtained from numerous scattered localities, especially fine small crystals coming from Herkimer county, N. Y., and Hot Springs, Ark. Rose quartz was found at several places in New England. Gold quartz from several Western States was made into jewelry. Amethyst had been found in Maine, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Colorado. Agate was known to occur in many States, and the Wyoming and Montana moss agates were used in large quantities. Jasper and petrified wood were found in many States and used in small quantities. Peridot was gathered by the Navajo Indians of Arizona. Turquoise was known in New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. The feldspar gems, labradorite, amazon stone, sunstone, and moonstone were used in small quantities. The amazon stone came from the Pikes Peak region, Colorado. The Lake Superior gem stones, thomsonite and chlorastrolite, were collected for the tourist trade. Numerous lesser gems were known to occur in the United States, but were only sparingly used, such as phenacite, hyacinth garnet, iolite, rutilated quartz, novaculite, rutile, prehnite, obsidian, diopside, chrysoprase, rhodonite, malachite, chialtolite, catlinite, and others.

New Gem Minerals—Production.

Among new gem minerals may be mentioned californite (massive compact vesuvianite) and benitoite, both found in California. Californite has been found in several counties and a quantity has been sold at different times. Benitoite is a barium titanösilicate. It is a new mineral discovered in San Benito County in 1906. Only one deposit, now exhausted, has been found. Benitoite is a blue mineral resembling sapphire in color but much softer.

Below is given a table of the production during certain years since 1883 of gems and precious stones as recorded in Mineral Resources of the United States for 1914 (published by the U. S. Geological Survey), from which volume the foregoing facts relating to gem deposits were also taken:

Gems and ornamental stones.	1883	1890	1900	1910	1913	1914
Agate, moss agate, chalcedony, onyx, etc.	\$4,500	.....	\$2,000	\$2,268	\$8,895	\$8,312
Amethyst	2,250	.....	500	.....	389	255
Beryl, aquamarine, blue, pink, golden, etc.	500	.....	11,000	5,545	1,615	2,385
Californite	.....	.....	.....	8,000	152	1,425
Chrysoprase	.....	\$200	100	9,000	.....	75
Copy or ore gems, chrysocola, malachite, azurite, etc.	.....	2,000	200	550	2,350	1,280
Diamond	.....	.....	150	1,400	6,315	705
Feldspar, amazon stone, sunstone, moonstone, oligoclase	4,200	500	270	2,510	1,285	440
Garnet, almandine, pyrope, rhodolite, spessartite, hyacinth, topazolite	6,000	2,308	21,500	3,100	4,285	1,780
Gold quartz	115,000	9,000	2,000	1,000	300	1,050
Jasper	2,500	.....	.....	475	5,275	4,700
Opal	.....	.....	.....	270	15,130	1,114
Peridot	.....	.....	500	.....	875	100

Gems and ornamental stones.	1883	1890	1900	1910	1913	1914
Quartz, crystal, smoky; inclosing rutile and other minerals.....	\$23,100	\$10,475	\$11,050	\$1,335	\$1,640	\$4,046
Rhodonite.....				6,200	165	1,020
Rose quartz.....		200	100	2,537	337	400
Ruby.....			3,000		200	100
Sapphire.....	2,200	6,725	75,000	52,983	238,635	60,932
Spodumene, hiddenite, kunzite, California iris.....	600			33,000	6,520	4,000
Thomsonite, mesolite.....	750	400	1,000	610		21
Topaz.....	1,000			884	736	1,380
Tourmaline.....		2,250	3,500	46,500	7,630	7,980
Turquoise and matrix.....	2,000	28,675	82,000	85,900	8,075	13,370
Variscite, uvalite, chlorasthalite, ametrine.....			100	26,125	6,105	5,055
Other gems and ornamental stones.....	24,150	50,100	17,200	5,605	3,045	2,637
Total.....	188,750	118,833	231,170	295,797	319,454	124,651

Gems Whose Output Exceeds \$10,000.

The gems and ornamental stones whose production exceeded \$10,000 in any one of the 32 years under review included agate, the output of which in 1894 was valued at \$12,500; beryl, which in 1900 reached a total of \$11,000; catlinite and pipestone, which in the years 1883 to 1886 amounted to \$10,000 annually; and californite, with an output valued at \$25,000 in 1907 and \$18,000 in 1909. Other gems of this category and their output were: Chrysoprase—1906, \$32,470; 1907, \$46,500; 1908, \$38,225; 1909, \$84,800; and 1911, \$13,550; garnet—1900, \$21,500; 1901, \$22,100; 1908, \$13,100; opal—1892, \$10,000; 1912, \$10,925; 1913, \$15,130; peridot—1905, \$10,000; spodumene, etc.—1904, \$10,000; 1906, \$14,000; 1907, \$14,500; 1909, \$15,150; 1910, \$33,000; 1912, \$18,000.

In the periods 1883–1888 and 1892–1896 the output of gold quartz was \$10,000 a year or more; in 1884 and 1885 it reached the record figures of \$140,000. With the single exception of 1894, the production of crystal quartz from 1883 to 1905, both inclusive, exceeded \$10,000 yearly, 1884 holding the record with \$25,100. The record year for sapphires was 1913, when the yield was valued at \$238,635, but from 1891 down to and including 1914 the output exceeded \$10,000 in value each year, save 1895. The 1909 production of turquoise and matrix was the highest during the period under review, being \$179,273, with an output above \$10,000 since 1889, except in 1913. From 1901 to 1912, both inclusive, the output of tourmaline in the United States ranged from \$15,000 to \$133,192, reaching the latter figure in 1909. Petrified wood, which is included in "Other gems and ornamental stones" in the above table, was valued at \$10,500 in 1884, \$36,000 in 1887, \$16,000 in 1888, \$53,175 in 1889, \$11,000 in 1892, and \$21,250 in 1893.

Imports of Precious and Semiprecious Stones.

The domestic production forms only a very small part of the gems used annually in the United States, the importations having reached a value of \$49,529,845 in 1912–13, whereas the record output of American gems and semiprecious stones within the past 32 years was but \$534,280. However, owing to the war in Europe—from which continent most of the diamonds and pearls are purchased—the value of the imports in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, was less than

half that for the preceding year and less than one-third that for 1912-13, as the following summary discloses:

Precious and semiprecious stones, and imitations of.	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
Diamonds:			
Uncut.....			
free.....	\$12,339,553	\$4,368,055	
cut.....		\$3,151,637	\$3,358,180
Cut, but not set.....	27,213.047	17,795.099	8,452,117
Pearls, and parts of, not strung or set.....	5,808.673	4,263.933	1,644,751
Other precious stones, uncut.....	79,158	\$23.085	
Other precious and semiprecious stones, cut, but not set.....	2,771,950	\$14,660	60,578
Imitation precious stones.....	1,319,454	1,192,897	773,862
Total.....	49,529,845	33,375,181	15,134,406

^a July 1, 1913, to Oct. 3, 1913, inclusive.

^b Beginning Oct. 4, 1913.

Synthetic jewels (which are included with the imports of imitation precious stones in the foregoing table) are finding increased use in the industries. Watchmakers have adopted them for jeweled bearings and they are employed in the manufacture of electrical and optical apparatus, compasses, and similar instruments.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Subsistence stores, No. 2807.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until December 8, 1915, for furnishing and delivering on or before January 7, 1916, the following: 22,800 pounds of lard; 2,016 cuns of bacon; and 3,000 pounds of sugar-cured ham.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2808.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 15, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following: Steel shapes, grommets, rivets and burrs, portable forges, garbage cans, garbage-can covers, water coolers, marine clocks, marine lights, towels, leather fillets, asbestos cement, rubber bands, paper drinking cups, level books, and paper. (Circular No. 994.

Mixed sulphuric and nitric acid, No. 2809.—Sealed proposals will be received at Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, N. J., until December 20, 1915, for furnishing and delivering 1,800,000 pounds (more or less) mixed sulphuric and nitric acid, of "standard" composition, as per paragraph 2 of the "Specifications for Mixed Sulphuric and Nitric Acid," revision of June 3, 1912, a copy of which may be had on application to the arsenal.

Lard, No. 2810.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of The Quartermaster Corps, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until December 13, 1915, for furnishing and delivering, on or before December 27, 1915, 20,000 pounds of lard. Proposals will be received for delivery of the lard to the Depot Quartermaster, Kansas City, Mo., or to the Depot Quartermaster, Omaha, Nebr.

Elevators, No. 2811.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 23, 1915, for the installation, complete, of an electric passenger elevator in each of the following buildings: The United States post office and courthouse at Pendleton, Oreg., the United States post office and courthouse at Brattle-

boro, Vt., and the United States post office and courthouse at Ardmore, Okla., in accordance with drawings and specifications, copies of which may be had on application to the Washington office.

Hardware, No. 2812.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until December 30, 1915, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., finishing hardware for the bath, laundry, and tailor-shop building, in accordance with specifications. Copies of the specifications, together with further information, may be had on application to the Washington office.

Construction work, No. 2813.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 10, 1916, for the construction of a two-story and basement stone and brick faced building for the United States post office at Titusville, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site or at the Washington office.

Power house, No. 2814.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Engineer, Wheeling District, Wheeling, W. Va., until January 6, 1916, for building a fireproof power house at Dam No. 14, Ohio River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Construction work, No. 2815.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 27, 1915, for enlarging drafting room, and new skylight in the United States post office at Olympia, Wash., in accordance with drawings Nos. 76 and 77 and the specifications, copies of which may be had on application to the custodian of the Olympia Building, or at the Washington, D. C., office.

Navy Department supplies, No. 2816.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for supplying the following articles. Firms interested should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving schedule numbers desired: Schedule 9059, kapok fiber, grown in Java, Guam, the Philippines or islands adjacent, and No. 1 Madoura kapok fiber; schedule 9060, filling on site for hangers; schedule 9061, electrically driven 72-inch planer; schedule 9062, twist drills; schedule 9063, North Carolina pine and yellow pine; schedule 9064, 600-pound crucibles, yellow-pine drawers, metal file units, and single conductor cable; and schedule 9065, bleached and shrunk cotton drill, gymnasium shoes, and Turkish cotton bath towels.

GIVES CREDIT TO "COMMERCE REPORTS."

A manufacturing company in Cleveland, Ohio, reports that it has built up a very satisfactory export trade through the information contained in *COMMERCE REPORTS*. The secretary of the company recently called upon F. L. Roberts, foreign trade secretary of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, to obtain information in regard to foreign markets for dress fasteners. He stated at the same time the extent of the assistance that had been received by his company through the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. He very highly commended the Bureau's work in promoting the export trade of American manufacturers.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Wood knobs and coppered wire, No. 19436.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in England writes that a firm in that country desires to be placed in direct communication with manufacturers of wood knobs and steel coppered wire. The wire should be 13-gauge standard, and the knots are to be drilled to a depth of one-fourth inch, so that the wire will slide in easily without any play. Samples of the articles may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 914.)

Wool and mohair, No. 19437.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a firm in his district desires to find a market for wool and mohair. The firm has an office in New York City.

Gocart and baby-carriage wheels and fittings, No. 19438.—A manufacturer and dealer in perambulators in the United Kingdom has informed an American consular officer that he wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of wheels and fittings suitable for gocarts and baby carriages.

General agency, No. 19439.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that he has received a letter from a business man who desires to act as manager or general representative of American manufacturers or exporters who may care to place their goods in South American markets. It is stated that the man has had extensive commercial experience in Argentina and is familiar with American business methods. He has had experience in the sale of office devices, cash registers, adding machines, etc. References are offered.

Machinery, etc., No. 19440.—An American consular officer in England writes that a firm in his district is desirous of being placed in immediate connection with American manufacturers of machinery and equipment for a plant for the low-temperature distillation of peat. Catalogues and full information should be sent. Bank reference is given.

Sewing machines and agricultural implements, No. 19441.—The Department of Commerce is in receipt of a letter from a business man in Russia who desires to receive names and addresses of American manufacturers of sewing machines and agricultural implements. He also writes that he is in a position to represent American manufacturers of other lines.

Brushes, cutlery, cheap jewelry, etc., No. 19442.—An American consular officer in Great Britain writes that a firm in his district wishes to represent American manufacturers of brushes, fancy leather goods, hardware, cutlery, cheap jewelry, etc. It is stated that the firm has large warerooms, and employs a number of traveling salesmen. Reference is given.

Paving, No. 19443.—The Imperial Trade Correspondent at Dunedin reports that tenders are invited by the Dunedin city council for the laying of 48,000 square yards (more or less) of street paving in that city. The paving is to consist of either jarrah wood blocks, rock asphalt, or Trinidad asphalt, and tenders are invited for each or any of the several materials. Copies of the specifications and conditions and form of tender, together with drawings, may be obtained from the town clerk, town hall, Dunedin, New Zealand, on payment of \$9.73, which amount will be refunded upon the receipt of a bona fide tender. Tenders will be received at the office of the town clerk, Dunedin, until February 9, 1915.

Hosiery, underwear, etc., No. 19444.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that an agent in that country wishes to act as representative of American manufacturers of hosiery, tricot underwear, and corsets. He wishes to work on a commission basis, but if necessary he will buy on his own account.

Cattle, No. 19445.—An American consular officer in Colombia transmits the names and addresses of a number of firms which desire to receive catalogues and full information relative to shorthorn Durham bulls (either full or half blood) for breeding purposes. Owing to similarity of climate the bulls should preferably be from the southern part of the United States. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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BRITISH PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF MACHINE TOOLS.

[Telegram from American Embassy, London, Dec. 2, 1915.]

A royal proclamation, published November 30, 1915, prohibits, after December 21, the importation into the United Kingdom of all machine tools and parts thereof, except small tools. A further exception is made in favor of machine tools and parts thereof imported under the license of the Board of Trade and subject to the provisions and conditions of such license.

TOBACCO EXTRACT FOR NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

In connection with the cablegram from the American Embassy in London with regard to tobacco shipments (published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 3, 1915), it is further announced by cable from the embassy that, according to the British Foreign Office, tobacco extract, as well as tobacco of all kinds, will not be interfered with by the British Government when shipped to neutral consignees in neutral countries.

CLOSE SEASON FOR LOBSTERS IN BAY OF FUNDY.

[Consul Henry S. Culver, St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 20.]

The fisheries regulations in regard to lobster fishing along the New Brunswick coast, extending from the mouth of the St. Croix River to Chignecto Bay, in the Bay of Fundy, have been amended. Along the Charlotte County coast the close season will be from June 16 to November 14, and along the St. John County coast from June 1 to November 14. Along the Charlotte County coast no lobsters may be taken at any season of the year whose carapace is less than 4½ inches, and along the St. John County coast the prohibition extends to all lobsters under 9 inches in length, measured from head to tail, exclusive of claws and feelers.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW FOOD FISH.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries ended its fishing operations, in connection with the campaign to establish the tilefish in the markets, on November 10, when one schooner was on the grounds under private initiative and several others were outfitting for the fishery. With the end of the month there were eight vessels actively engaged, and they had landed in New York 10 fares, aggregating 156,500 pounds of tilefish. In the last two days of the month six schooners landed 106,500 pounds.

Five of the vessels belong to the fleet formerly fishing out of New York, and three are from Boston, but all are landing their catch at the former city, and most of them would normally be idle at this period of the year. The exploitation and development of this fishery therefore provides for the economic use of an expensive plant at a time when otherwise it would be unproductive and the lucrative employment of labor which under previously existing conditions often would be idle.

In addition to the industrial results, a new and excellent animal food has been placed within reach of the consumer, and the presentation of this phase of the subject will be continued as the supply of tilefish becomes more nearly equal to the demand already created.

[Other reports on the recent developments in the use of tilefish appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 25 and 29 and Nov. 2, 1915.]

MACHINERY FOR MANUFACTURING CORN PRODUCTS, ETC.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, South Africa.]

The secretary of a manufacturers' association in British South Africa desires to obtain information from the United States on the following two points, with a view to considering the establishment, in this Province, of an industry for the utilization of maize in some of the forms in which it is prepared by concerns in the United States: (1) A list of the various products of maize manufacturers in the United States, such as maize oil and oil cake, forms of maize meal, hominy, biscuits and cakes, starch, glucose, dextrine, alcohol, sirup, etc., and others of which little or nothing is known here. (2) A statement of the various machines required in the preparation of these various commodities, details of their application, cost, and a list of manufacturers from whom such machinery may be obtained.

[The name and address of the inquirer may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or one of its branch offices. Refer to file

FOREIGN TRADE OF ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Nov. 10.]

The combined value of the exports and imports of Italy for the first nine months of 1915, according to Italian official statistics, was \$779,897,480. The exports reached a total of \$331,570,095, an increase of \$10,414,001 over the corresponding period of 1914. The imports amounted to \$448,327,385, a decline of \$15,133,955 from those for the same period in 1914.

NARRAGANSETT BAY AND EAST RIVER WIRE-DRAG WORK.

N. H. Heck, of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, has made a preliminary report on his wire-drag work in the Eastern Passage, Narragansett Bay, accompanied by a section of a chart showing the position of shoals found and buoys located. Several shoal spots (small rocks), depths less than charted, and extensions of shoals were found in the area examined. A pinnacle rock with 28 feet of water over it was found about one-half mile northeast of Fiske Rock; this is surrounded by depths of 7 fathoms. To the south of Halfway Rock, depths of 27 and 33 feet, respectively, were found where greater depth is charted. Several reported dangers were sought for but not found in the positions indicated. The unfinished area from Coasters Harbor Island to Goat Island was examined. North of Bull's Point a pinnacle with 33 feet of water was found where 10 fathoms was indicated on the chart. Numerous other items for the correction of the charts were reported.

The wire-drag work in East River by the party under J. H. Hawley, which has been completed, was attended by unusual difficulties. Delays due to strong currents and congested traffic, which ordinarily do not seriously affect wire-drag work, were so excessive that other lost time due to the usual causes, such as failure of equipment, incidental work, and clearing fishing gear, became comparatively insignificant. The peculiar conditions encountered in this locality made it necessary to take up and set out the drag from four to six times each day, and required frequent changes in the length of the drag.

TRADE EXTENSION IN ITALY.

[Consul F. T. F. Dumont, Florence, Oct. 13.]

This consulate is in receipt of the following letter from the president of the Florence Chamber of Commerce:

"We are informed that many articles of American manufacture are imported into Italy by way of other European countries. We wish to establish direct relations with American manufacturers whose European agencies are or have been located elsewhere, and request you to furnish us with a list of their names and American addresses."

American manufacturers whose general European sales agencies are or have been located elsewhere and who are not represented in this market should communicate at once in the French or Italian language with the Florence Chamber of Commerce.

COLOMBIAN CATTLE INDUSTRY.

[Consul Isaac A. Manning, Barranquilla, Nov. 8.]

A number of people recently visited Colombia looking for Colombian cattle for export, and it is reported that contracts have been entered into for the exportation of some 40,000 head during the coming year.

This consulate is informed that at least 80,000 to 100,000 head of cattle might be available for export during that period, running from 850 pounds on the hoof up to 950 pounds.

One large American packing house has also had its representative here studying the packing-house situation, and it is reported that a canning plant may be established in this city or Cartagena.

AMERICAN TRAINING FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS.

As the first step in the plan to educate and train foreign students in the United States, described in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for November 19, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has completed arrangements for putting South American technical graduates in touch with training-course positions in American manufacturing plants.

To determine the attitude of American manufacturers on the subject a letter was addressed to 14 of the largest concerns in the country. In this letter the manufacturers were asked for their opinion of the plan as a whole, and also for a statement of what practical help could be given. Of these 14 firms 9 replied at once that they are in a position to give training courses for South American technical graduates. A synopsis of the replies received follows:

A mining and smelting company offers to take three men at once at a salary of \$50 a month to start. Increases in pay will depend upon the individual.

An automobile concern is ready to take 8 or 10 men for its students' course and pay them 34 cents an hour eight hours a day six days a week. Applicants must be technical graduates.

A Chicago firm will take two South Americans and pay them \$75 a month to start, further increases to depend upon their ability to get along. This company replied under the impression that Chile alone was under consideration.

Another Chicago firm offers to take three or four students for training and pay them \$15 a week the first year and \$18 the second.

One manufacturing company admits South American graduates of technical schools and universities into its student engineering courses, and arranges to have applications for admission indorsed by resident agents of the company in South America or by important customers.

One of the greatest manufacturers in the world states that he will take as many students as business from time to time warrants.

A Pennsylvania concern states that it already has a student course and has had several South Americans enrolled. This company is giving further attention to the Secretary's letter.

A New York firm writes that it has been successful with its student course and is always glad to hear from technical-school graduates wishing positions in the students' corps.

One well-known company offers to help in any way it can.

Two other concerns are much interested in the plan, but wish to go into the matter further before reaching a decision.

The result of this canvass seemed to indicate that the plan was a sound one so far as the training of technical graduates was concerned, and steps were immediately taken to put it into operation. Arrangements have been completed to have the American commercial attachés in South America deal directly with applicants in their districts. These officials are furnished with lists of manufacturers willing to receive students. In some cases it is desirable to have the officials act as intermediaries and conduct the negotiations between the students and manufacturers. Some manufacturers, however, prefer to deal with the applicant directly, and in such cases the attaché merely puts the two interested parties in touch with each other.

Advantages of the Plan.

The advantages of bringing South American technical graduates to this country for further training are obvious. Some of the students will eventually return to their own countries as representatives of American manufacturers. They will be well-equipped native

representatives familiar with conditions in their own countries and naturally loyal to the firms with which they have studied and worked. They will be a powerful factor in overcoming the prejudice against American products that undoubtedly exists in certain quarters. Even if they later enter business for themselves or engage in entirely different lines, their influence will continue to make itself felt.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is so well satisfied with the results of the preliminary canvass that it now extends the invitation to cooperate to all American concerns interested in foreign trade. Firms wishing to take one or more Latin-American graduates for training are requested to write to the Bureau at Washington. They will be placed in touch with applicants at once.

Training for Other Classes of Students.

The placing of technical graduates is only the first step in the plan, however. It is no less desirable that South Americans be trained in the offices of commercial houses. There are two classes of applicants for such offices. One desires to put in all its time on such training. The other wishes to work part time in commercial offices to pay its way through American schools of one kind or another. One Boston exporting house has expressed a desire to employ a student from Buenos Aires for part-time work in its office, the pay to be sufficient to enable the young man to study at some school or university.

It is also intended to extend the plan to accommodate young men who wish to work at anything to pay their way through American schools. Such students may never engage in similar work after returning to their homes, but their attitude toward American institutions will be favorably affected by their experiences in this country, and their influence will have its value in the strengthening of friendly relations between the United States and the South American Republics.

Plans of the Chilean Committee.

Since the preliminary canvass was finished, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has had the good fortune to get into communication with Señor Eduardo Carrasco, chief of the commercial section of the Foreign Relations Department of Chile, who has been commissioned by his Government to make studies of our commercial situation, our transportation facilities, and our methods of doing business. Señor Carrasco was one of the organizers of the committee for the foreign education of Chilean youths mentioned in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for November 19, and he intends while in this country to establish committees in some of the more important American cities, such as New York, San Francisco, St. Louis, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago. These committees will help the young men selected and sent by the committee in Chile to find positions in the universities, factories, or commercial houses. There will be no limit to the membership of the committees, and they will be authorized to proceed in any desired and convenient way.

Señor Carrasco is to visit Washington in the near future, and during his stay a plan will be considered for coordinating the work of the Chilean committees, in Chile as well as in this country, with that of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

BUREAU TAKES OVER PRIVATE BRANCH IN ARGENTINA.

The Buenos Aires branch of the Chicago Association of Commerce has been taken over by the American commercial attaché in behalf of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The branch was opened originally to advertise Illinois products and to establish direct trade relations for firms in the Chicago district. A special representative, using the Buenos Aires office as his headquarters, traveled all over South America in the interests of the association.

However, in view of the fact that the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is now maintaining commercial attachés at Buenos Aires and three other South American cities, the association came to the conclusion that this pioneer service could be discontinued. The association feels that the attachés are in a position to carry on the work established by it, and that the interests of Chicago business men will be adequately looked after by these new representatives of the Department of Commerce.

In accepting the offer of the association of commerce to turn over its branch to the United States Government, Edward Ewing Pratt, chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in a letter to the association, paid the following tribute to the work of the association and incidentally pointed out the chief function of the new commercial-attaché service:

While the work of the Association of Commerce was undertaken primarily in the interests of Chicago business men, other export interests of the country have benefited directly or indirectly. You do not, I know, expect the attaché to give the direct and individual aid to the Chicago business men that has been rendered by your association. Your action proves the broadness of your view. You realize that the object of the attaché service is the larger commerce of the country as a whole, in which the Chicago business men will benefit along with others. Your feeling that the work started by your organization can now be successfully continued by the commercial attachés is in itself an excellent testimony of the need and efficiency of our service.

Your association has succeeded in great measure in informing the South American buyer as to the ability of our exporters and manufacturers to supply his needs. Ultimate success depends upon the continuance of the connections already made and the establishment of new relations. Herein the commercial attaché will find his chief function in trade promotion. He stands as an adviser, as an aid, to the South American buyer and our exporters. His work is to see and in some cases to create opportunities for mutual trade development. It rests with the individual to make effective use of the opportunities thus offered.

INCOME-TAX PAYERS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 29.]

There are 13,967 persons in New Zealand who pay an income tax classified as follows: 10,101 pay income tax on amounts under £700 (£=\$4.86), 715 on amounts between £700 and £800, 535 between £800 and £900, 372 between £900 and £1,000, 704 between £1,000 and £1,500, 573 between £1,500 and £2,000, 463 between £2,000 and £3,000, 147 between £3,000 and £4,000, 80 between £4,000 and £5,000, 88 between £5,000 and £7,000, 52 between £7,000 and £10,000, and 137 who pay tax on amounts over £10,000.

Of the 13,967 income-tax payers, 363 pay less than 5 shillings (\$1.20), while only 1,406 pay over £50 (243) a year.

AMERICAN PURCHASES FROM CEYLON.

[Consul Walter A. Leonard, Colombo, Oct. 23.]

The total value of exports from Ceylon to the United States as declared at the American consulate at Colombo during the third quarter of 1915 exceeded any previous corresponding period in the history of the consulate. The exports were valued at \$6,225,861, nearly two-thirds of which consisted of raw rubber.

The total value of exports to the United States during the first nine months of the calendar year 1915 amounted to \$12,063,126, compared with \$10,984,472 and \$12,780,737 for the entire years of 1914 and 1913, respectively.

For the period from January 1 to September 30, 1915, the exports from Ceylon to the United States consisted of the following articles, with their respective quantities and values:

Article.	Quantity.	Value.
Rubber	14,349.187 lbs.	\$7,691.999
Tea	8,722.530 do.	1,813.874
Plumbago	7,720 tons	949.533
Coconut oil	11,602.478 lbs.	876.063
Coconut, desiccated	3,154.920 do.	222.143
All others		509.513
Total		12,063.126

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin	São Paulo, Brazil	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester	Amoy, China	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.	Aden, Arabia	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William	Rosario, Argentina	do.	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.	Tsingtau, China	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.	Fort Erie, Canada	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas	Shanghai, China	Dec. 10	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.	Canton, China	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409 Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

Consul General William W. Handley, of Callao-Lima, reports that the customs revenues collected at the eight maritime ports of Peru during September amounted to \$276,062, as compared with \$217,991 during the corresponding month of 1914.

NEW ZEALAND BUYING MORE AMERICAN GOODS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 28.]

Trade conditions in New Zealand continue favorable, with a foreign trade balance of \$45,382,657 in favor of this country for the 11 months ended August 31, 1915. The bank balances at the end of September, 1915, were \$28,255,016, a record surplus for this country. The savings banks also show an increase of deposits, and conditions in general are good for the importer, notwithstanding the fact that the New Zealander is inclined to be conservative and to economize somewhat at this time. He is in position to pay for everything he needs. In reviewing the present conditions, the New Zealand Herald of October 22 says:

Forward booking is the feature of the wholesale trade this week. Soft-goods houses are already delivering, and they report a good turnover. The trouble in drapery is undoubtedly the difficulty in getting supplies. Orders are plentiful but stocks are low. This is only in some departments, but there is a decided shortage in calicos, tweeds, serges, hosiery, and gloves. Floor coverings are difficult to obtain, while in heavy goods, like blankets, there is a shortage in both local and imported. To some extent the case is being met by buying from Japan and America, so that in the aggregate a heavy importation is taking place.

Of late, more of the imports have come from the United States, and this is the time to push for still more, as complaints are common that it is impossible to get orders filled from Continental sources.

[Articles giving many details of the trade of New Zealand during the past year were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 17 and October 27, 1915.]

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF MANCHURIA.

Manchurian industrial development is almost entirely in the hands of the Russians in the north and the Japanese in the south. Practically all of the large enterprises in south Manchuria at present are conducted by the South Manchuria Railway Co. as adjuncts to the railway. Being unable advantageously to float a loan in Europe in 1914, the company's scheme of constantly enlarging its undertakings was curtailed. This indirectly affected the prosperity of the communities within the zone of its activities. It is believed that the Japanese, provided the necessary capital is forthcoming, will undertake additional industrial and agricultural enterprises in south Manchuria. Important stipulations with regard to the establishment of industries in this region were embodied in the treaties between Japan and China signed at Peking on May 25, 1915.

The exploitation under modern methods of the mineral wealth of Manchuria has been confined almost entirely to coal mining under Japanese supervision. Apart from these Japanese activities, nothing was done during last year toward mineral development. By the treaties above mentioned the Japanese have several additional valuable mining privileges. Manchuria is sufficiently rich in minerals to call for development, as gold, silver, copper, lead, coal, and iron are known to exist. It is believed that American capital seeking investment in mining enterprises in Manchuria would find its prospects of success enhanced by cooperation with Russians in the north and Japanese in the south.

ACTIVE WORK FOR AMERICAN COMMERCE AT TRIPOLI.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Tripoli, Libya, Oct. 7.]

During July, August, and September, the Tripoli consulate supplied several merchants with lists of names of manufacturers and exporters in various cities of the United States. Cereals, flour, coffee, cotton-seed oil, shoes, hardware, beer, coal, and druggists' sundries were sought. Three definite trade opportunities were reported to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; two have been heard from with many letters and catalogues. However, lack of c. i. f. prices, coupled with the invariable demand for cash against documents, American port, quashed orders. Replies to communications dispatched to addresses supplied presented the same deterrents, and in one or two instances referred importers seeking direct business to agents in Italy.

Endeavors to bring a leading sponge merchant and a manufacturer of oil motors and air compressors together, reached the point where an agency arrangement is possible. The interest of the manufacturer was drawn to this market by the consulate's report "Sponge Fishing in Italian North Africa," printed in *COMMERCE REPORTS* No. 61, of March 15, 1915.

Following the publication of a Trade Opportunity sent forward in the preceding quarter, a trial order for saddles was placed with a Baltimore concern. An importer of camp furniture, with house in Genoa, who formerly purchased beds, etc., through the Milan agent of an American manufacturer, will in future, as a result of negotiations started through a Trade Opportunity, published in the June quarter, place all orders direct by means of his Genoa office. A misunderstanding between a manufacturer and a merchant was straightened out and settlement obtained (July 1, 1915).

As nearly all of Tripoli's business with the United States is done through Italy, the cooperation of American chambers of commerce there was sought and obtained, for the purpose of keeping this consulate posted, as far as possible, as to the names of jobbers stocking with or otherwise representing American wares.

IMMIGRATION INTO CHILE.

[Consul L. J. Keena, Valparaiso.]

The small number of immigrants arriving in Chile is illustrated by the following recently published statistics: From 1905 to the end of 1914 the number arriving totaled 25,544. The numbers, by years, follow: 1905, 203; 1906, 1,442; 1907, 8,462; 1908, 5,484; 1909, 3,098; 1910, 2,561; 1911, 863; 1912, 1,839; 1913, 1,142; and 1914, 360.

A sample of the sacks made of a combination of strips of paper and vegetable fiber, used to ship ores from Antofagasta, Chile, which were mentioned in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for November 5, 1915, has been received from Consul Thomas W. Voetter, and will be loaned to interested persons upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67,661.

NOTES FROM CHILE.

[Extracts from South Pacific Mail for Oct. 28, transmitted by Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaíso.]

Traiguén-to-Púa Railway Bid Accepted.

The tenders for the construction of the projected railway from Traiguén to Púa have been opened in the Ministry of Industry and Public Works, and the estimate of Señor Juan Bertoglio (who was one of four bidders) accepted. [Brief mention of this railway project was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 27, 1915.]

Production of Sugar in Chile—Port of San Antonio.

For some time past the establishment of a sugar industry has been occupying the attention of the Government, and in a report presented to the Sociedad de Fomento Fabril Señor Prado asserts that the condition of soil and climate in the Provinces of Llanquihue and Chiloe are exceptionally adapted for the growing of the sugar beet. In the north, between Tacna and the River Sama, the soil is suitable for the cultivation of the sugar cane, but nothing yet can be done there on a productive scale until the region is properly irrigated.

The port of San Antonio is situated 43 miles south of Valparaíso, and when the port works under construction are completed it will prove a help to Valparaíso, though on account of the limited amount of cargo which can be handled it will be many years before it can compete with the latter port. San Antonio will provide an outlet for the rich agricultural products of the Central Valley and, being only 70 miles by rail from Santiago, that is, 47 miles nearer than Valparaíso, will prove of great advantage, especially in regard to heavy cargo, as the difference in the maximum gradient of the lines is 1.3 per cent in favor of the railway from San Antonio. This difference should materially affect the freights. The imports of San Antonio will consist principally of coal, iron and steel, cement, and other rough goods, and the exports of timber, cereals, and agricultural produce.

Budget for 1916.

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The budget presented to Congress on July 14 last showed an expenditure of \$196,215,040 Chilean currency and \$72,776,725 gold, and after deducting the special funds authorized for payment of port works at Valparaíso and San Antonio, Santiago waterworks, and naval acquisitions, an expenditure remained of \$184,215,040 currency and \$47,343,612 gold. This sum, however, has now been reduced to \$171,300,000 currency and \$46,857,000 gold, distributed among the ministries as follows:

Ministry.	Chilean currency. *	Chilean gold. *	Ministry.	Chilean currency. *	Chilean gold. *
Interior	\$38,000,000	\$470,000	Navy	\$17,000,000	\$5,000,000
Foreign Affairs	3,000,000	1,000,000	Industry	20,000,000	60,000
Justice	10,750,000	.....	Railways	2,750,000	2,000
Instruction	21,000,000	200,000			
Treasury	15,600,000	40,000,000	Total	171,300,000	46,857,000
Army	33,200,000	125,000			

* According to the United States Treasury statement dated Oct. 1, 1915, the value of the Chilean paper peso is about \$0.14; that of the gold peso, \$0.365.

The income is calculated at \$122,300,000 currency and \$74,500,000 gold, thus showing a credit balance of \$757,400 currency over the expenditure—the first for many years.

In order to meet the estimated deficit of \$25,000,000 currency in this year's (1915) budget, the Government has asked Congress to authorize the raising of a loan of \$30,000,000 for a period of five years, the interest not to exceed 8 per cent.

LUMBER MARKET IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Nov. 25.]

The colony of Bermuda imported 887,972 feet of lumber in 1914, valued at \$25,744, while in the preceding year (1913) the colony imported 1,739,050 feet, valued at \$37,725. In an interview with a local lumber merchant the following detailed estimates of the annual lumber trade of Bermuda were suggested:

About 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 feet of pitch pine, 100,000 to 200,000 feet of spruce, 50,000 to 100,000 feet of white pine, and 25,000 to 50,000 feet of cypress are imported into the colony each year, all of which are used for building purposes. The lumber, in the order named, sells in Bermuda for the following approximate figures: \$50; \$40 to \$45; \$60 to \$70; and \$80 per 1,000 feet.

Practically all the spruce comes from New Brunswick, Canada, where it is bought, according to size, at \$15 to \$20 per 1,000 feet. The white pine imported is a silver variety, grown in Idaho, and is purchased at about \$40 per 1,000 feet f. o. b. New York. The pitch pine comes from the Southern States, chiefly from Florida and Mississippi, and is bought at \$22.50 to \$23 per 1,000 feet. Cypress comes from Louisiana and costs, on an average, \$40 to \$45 per 1,000 feet.

The names of the leading lumber dealers of Bermuda may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.

REMARKABLE FALL OF HAIL AT TRIPOLI.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Tripoli, Libya, Oct. 9.]

In the early hours of October 8 this city was visited by a storm of unusual severity, which reached its height about 1.30 o'clock. There was a deluge, and the wind blowing from the northwest with hurricane velocity hurled hailstones of rare size with extreme rapidity and force.

The gardens of the oasis were harshly treated. Bare stalks mark the positions of former flourishing tobacco fields and patches of tender alfalfa are beaten to pulp. The sturdier pepper and henna plants stood up better, but their yield will be seriously affected. By reason of their tough, spreading leaves the fruit of the palm suffered still less. Many dates were beaten down, but, being at the harvesting stage, the riper portion can be gathered and used. The citrus trees seem to have been badly damaged.

Seeking to profit unduly by the breakage inflicted by the hail, merchants having glass in stock immediately advanced prices. The governor promptly requisitioned all in the city, placed it in the hands of a commission charged with locating stocks and regulating prices, and established penalties for those who concealed holding or disregarded the requests of the commission. Meanwhile orders were cabled to Italy for additional supplies.

COST OF FOODSTUFFS IN WESTERN GREECE.

[Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Nov. 10.]

The prices of staple foodstuffs held comparatively firm on the markets of the Patras district during the first six months of 1915, showing little effect on account of the European war. With the beginning of August, however, prices began to show a general unsteadiness; and from that time up to date have steadily risen for most of the articles of food.

The early steadiness of the market and its later unrest may be attributed to the fact that the district was fairly well supplied with many of the commodities imported during the first months, large stocks having been brought in against anticipated closing of the usual foreign markets. These stocks began to be exhausted with the coming of summer, and new stocks had to be brought from other markets at heavy freight rates. The prices in some of the domestic commodities are due to shortage of supplies; in others the increase is to be attributed rather to sympathetic than economic causes.

Comparative Prices of Foodstuffs.

The following table gives the prices current on the retail market of Patras for December, 1914, and November, 1915. Prices are given in cents per pound, except as otherwise indicated.

Articles.	Decem- ber, 1914.	Novem- ber, 1915.	Articles.	Decem- ber, 1914.	Novem- ber, 1915.
	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>		<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Bread (wheat), poor	4½	5	Olive oil	9½	15
Beef, ordinary	17	15	Coffee, ground	37½	37½
Mutton, ordinary	20	18	Sugar	8½	11
Pork, ordinary	17	17	Rice, ordinary	9	9½
Bacon, breakfast	27	(a)	Apples, cooking	5½	7
Ham, imported	60	(a)	Potatoes, poor	3	3
Fish, fresh	22	24	Onions	1½	1½
Codfish, salt	9	12½	Salt, table	3	2½
Cheese:			Milk:		
In brine	14 to 18	16 to 20	Poor	per qt.. 16	20
Head	22 to 34	20 to 33	Condensed	per can.. 20	20
Imported	41	40	Eggs	per doz.. 35	35
Butter:			Turkeys, dressed	19	20½
Poor	48	55	Chickens, medium	each.. 35	40
Imported	66	66	Ducks	do.. 40	45
Goat's	40	44			

* None offered.

INCREASED SALES OF MARGARINE IN LEEDS.

[Consul Homer W. Byington, Leeds, England, Nov. 17.]

The increase to 2/- (48 cents) per pound in the retail price of butter resulted in such a general substitution of margarine (12 cents, 20 cents, and 24 cents per pound) that the retail price of butter was soon reduced to 36 and 38 cents per pound. In the meantime the substitution of margarine has proved so generally satisfactory that local dealers report that only a small proportion of their customers have returned to butter at the prices quoted above, and their margarine sales continue to exceed their sales of butter.

[See report "Margarine Replacing Butter in Leeds," **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 26, 1915.]

INCREASED ACTIVITY IN BARCELONA COTTON MARKET.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Oct. 25.]

The increased activity of the Barcelona cotton market, in the campaign year 1914-15, may be inferred from the fact that 495,532 bales of cotton were entered at this port, compared with 391,066 in 1913-14, an increase of more than 100,000 bales. During the season of 1912-13 only 366,473 bales were imported.

Much difficulty has been encountered, within recent months, in securing exact statistics, owing to the many hindrances to which the importation of raw cotton has been subjected. The figures given by the cotton brokers of Barcelona are as nearly correct as it is possible to compute them at the present time, although they may not be in exact accordance with certain weekly statements hitherto made public. The campaign season has been calculated for this year up to July 31, instead of August 31 as previously. For the purpose of comparison, the amount of 9,848 bales, imported during August, 1914, has been included in the number given for the season of 1914-15, and consequently this number appears in the totals given for both seasons.

The countries of origin, and number of bales imported at Barcelona, during the past three seasons were:

Countries.	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
United States	426,566	276,365	289,611
Egypt.....	19,499	20,004	20,013
India.....	46,891	73,471	35,166
Levant.....	912	13,377	19,625
Various.....	1,664	7,849	2,058
Total.....	495,532	391,066	366,473

In contrast to lessened imports from other countries, American cotton shows an increase of 150,201 bales during the present campaign year, compared with the preceding year, and 136,955 bales more than in 1912-13. While the falling off in shipments from Egypt is insignificant, those from India decreased by 26,580 bales, considerably in excess, however, of the amount of Indian cotton purchased by Spain in 1912-13.

Galveston Leads in Shipments of American Cotton.

Of the American cotton entered at Barcelona during the past three campaign years, that from Galveston leads, with 263,438 bales this season, an advance of 113,838 bales over last season's shipments. The shipments by ports were:

Ports.	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
Galveston	263,438	149,600	171,816
Savannah.....	75,950	55,945	47,212
New Orleans.....	53,592	36,741	48,344
Charleston.....	14,700	6,000	4,200
New York.....	6,197	17,303	5,862
Wilmington.....	600	6,336	.....
Pensacola.....	65	50	1,000
Indirect.....	12,224	3,470	11,177
Total.....	426,566	276,365	289,611

UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSES TO TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Consul F. T. F. Dumont, Florence, Italy.]

From April 8 to August 30, 1915, the Florence consulate forwarded eight trade opportunities. Two of these were construction-work reports in which the names and addresses of successful contractors were given. A trial order for sewing machines was placed as the result of correspondence following the publication of the first of the remaining six, but the success attending the other five was not encouraging.

Take, for example, the one based on a request from a sanitary engineer who wished to get in touch with manufacturers of cold-storage and refrigerating plants and machinery. This Trade Opportunity was developed in connection with a report which had been specially asked for by American manufacturers, and these same manufacturers had an exceptional opportunity to enter the Italian market through this engineer, yet no replies whatever were received. Since most of the information contained in the report referred to was obtained from this engineer, it is needless to say that he was considerably surprised.

A Matter of Screw Sockets.

The opportunity to furnish electric-lamp screw sockets, at the rate of 60,000 per month, contract to run for a term of years, cash f. o. b. port of shipment, sample socket furnished as model of the goods wanted, brought the following responses:

"We are advised by our consular service that you are in the market for electrical supplies and are sending catalogue under separate cover. If you can advise us what material you are interested in, we shall be glad to quote you."

Also: "We understand that you are on the market for a large number of screw bases for lamp sockets. We are manufacturers of all kinds of miniature lighting devices and we would be glad to give you figures on any of our products. We are sending you catalogues under separate cover of our specialties."

A printed card was received from a firm of customhouse brokers offering to buy goods on commission.

It is evident that the concerns answering this Trade Opportunity either read it carelessly or failed to examine the sample base forwarded by this office. In the meantime a French house secured an order for 200,000 bases.

Italian Language and Metric Units Wanted.

As to the other Opportunities, no replies were received, or the prices quoted were too high, or negotiations have not yet reached a definite stage.

In practically every Trade Opportunity from this office a reply in either Italian or French is requested, with weights and measures in the metric system. Twenty-two such Opportunities have been transmitted during the last year; this office has seen but one reply in any language other than English.

TULLE MANUFACTURE IN SWITZERLAND.

As the starting of a new branch of industry is always interesting, says the Textile Mercury (Manchester, England), so the recent introduction of tulle manufacture into Switzerland is worthy of note. That the establishment has not been without difficulty is shown by the failure of the first experiment, which was made in Wattenwil five years ago—a failure due to the restrictions imposed by the Swiss factory regulations, under which night work was forbidden. This ordinance interposed a great obstacle to the manufacture, inasmuch as (so it is contended) the longer the machine or loom stands idle the more prejudicial it is to the quality of the products, which requires the warmth generated by continuous working of the loom.

With the institution of a new ordinance permitting both day and night work a new undertaking was launched on a modest scale at Munchwilen. This manufactory has 20 looms running, and uses up to 240's yarn, though when the need arises it can go up to 300's. The manufactory employs over 100 persons, and a skilled weaver can earn from 80 to 90 francs [\$15.44 to \$17.37] per fortnight. Thus this manufactory at Munchwilen (Thurgau) has the credit attached to pioneer undertakings, while the more recent establishment of a firm like that of the Swiss Tulle Co. (Glarus), with a share capital which has just been raised to 1,000,000 francs [\$193,000], testifies to the fact that a new path has been opened up.

FOREIGN TITLES FOR AMERICAN MOVING-PICTURE FILMS.

[Commercial Agent E. C. Porter, New York.]

In a recent interview with a person connected with the moving-picture industry in Porto Rico and Cuba, he stated that American films are not used to any degree in those countries, although the industry has developed rapidly. That American firms are not giving special attention to the needs and tastes of the people; that it has been difficult to secure Spanish titles for films; and that only one American company has made a specialty of using Spanish titles for films shown in Porto Rico and Cuba.

PRODUCTION OF DUTCH RUBBER COMPANIES.

[Consul Frank W. Mahlin, Amsterdam, Nov. 4.]

According to the Amsterdam press, the reports of six Dutch rubber companies show large increases in production this year over 1914. The total output in the first 10 months of 1915 was 818,213 pounds, as compared with 530,944 pounds in the calendar year 1914. The returns for each month, in most of the reports, show an increase for 1915 over 1914.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Cars, No. 19446.—A business man in Brazil informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for sugar-cane cars of from 5 to 10 tons, gauge 75 centimeters in one case and 1 meter in another. Correspondence may be in English.

Motor car, No. 19447.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that a man in his district is in the market for a gasoline motor car to be used on a track having a gauge of 60 centimeters.

Aluminum foil, No. 19448.—A business man in Denmark has informed an American consular officer that he wishes to purchase for his own account aluminum foil. Samples and detailed information as to color, thickness, etc., should be sent at once. Reference is given. Correspondence may be in English.

Haberdashery, hosiery, etc., No. 19449.—An American consular officer in France reports that a merchant in his district desires to represent American exporters or manufacturers of haberdashery, underwear of all kinds, hosiery, etc. Catalogues and full information should be sent at once. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.

Window glass, No. 19450.—A firm of wholesale glass dealers in Uruguay has informed an American consular officer that it wishes to import window glass from the United States. Correspondence is preferred in Spanish, and measurements should be in the metric system.

Machine tools, No. 19451.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a business man in his district is in the market for machine tools used in shops in connection with sugar factories. High-priced modern manufacturing tools are not wanted.

Cotton yarn, No. 19452.—A business man in South Africa has informed an American consular officer that he desires to receive prices and full information relative to cotton yarns used in the manufacture of medium and low-grade hosiery and underwear for women and children. Information relative to packing and shipping charges is desired.

Yarns, No. 19453.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a firm in his district is anxious to purchase yarns, threads, etc., of wool, cotton, and linen. The firm also wishes to secure an exclusive agency in this line for the whole of Scandinavia and, if possible, Finland and Russia. Reference is given.

Coil seat springs, No. 19454.—A firm of wholesale merchants in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer that it wishes to receive quotations on gross lots of coil seat springs for furniture and upholstery in the following standard sizes: 4 by 12, 5 by 12, 6 by 12, 7 by 8, 8 by 8, 8 by 9, 8 by 10, 7 by 10, and 7 by 9.

Manganese peroxide, No. 19455.—An American consular officer in Russia reports that a firm in his district wishes the services of an agent to represent it in the United States. The firm wishes to dispose of large quantities of manganese peroxide.

Machinery, No. 19456.—A business man in Brazil informs an American consular officer that he wishes to receive catalogues, prices, etc., relative to machinery for sugar mills. It is stated that the machines wanted should not exceed an output of 1,000 bags of 75 kilos.

Paints, oils, and colors, No. 19457.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a firm is in the market for paints, oils, and colors. The firm also exports casein and shellac, and would be glad to correspond with manufacturers of these articles. Bank references are given.

Essential oils, No. 19458.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a firm wishes to communicate with American importers of essential oils, such as lemon, orange, and bergamot, with a view to establishing commercial relations.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 286 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, December 7 1915

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SHIPPERS' EXPORT DECLARATIONS AND EXPORT PROCEDURE.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., December 4, 1915.

To collectors of customs and others concerned:

In order to give shippers and others concerned further time in which to familiarize themselves with the provisions of T. D. 35708, relative to shippers' declarations and export procedure, and to provide themselves with the necessary blank forms, the date upon which said circular becomes effective is changed from January 1 to February 1, 1916.

(Signed) W. G. McADOO,
Secretary of the Treasury.
(Signed) WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,
Secretary of Commerce.

CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Nov. 4.]

According to the Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture for October, 1915, the weather is favorable for the cotton crop though cold and damp, especially at night, with a certain amount of morning fogs. The water supply is ample. The pink boll worm continues its ravages and practically all the bolls remaining in Lower Egypt are now attacked. In Upper Egypt attacks from both species of boll worm continue, especially in Fayum. Specially satisfactory results of the second picking were obtained in some Upper Egypt Provinces. In Lower Egypt, however, this picking gave only cotton of inferior quality. The gathering of the crop in Upper Egypt is nearly finished. The law for the destruction of remaining bolls on cotton is being rigorously enforced with a view to the more complete reduction of the infesting boll worms.

From arrivals of new crop cotton in Alexandria, it appears that the 1915-16 crop will be inferior in quality. In a résumé of the cotton situation the Alexandria General Produce Association says: "Information received allows us to give an estimate of a crop of 4½ millions cantars (950,000 bales of 500 pounds each), including last season's cotton that still remains in the interior."

CUBA PROSPEROUS AND BUSINESS OUTLOOK GOOD.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

Conditions in Cuba are very favorable for the opening of new lines of business. The effects of the recent years of low prices for sugar are rapidly disappearing as a result of the profitable prices prevailing during the European war. There has been a widespread liquidation of old indebtedness. Banks have been liberal with advances, and money has been easier to obtain from private sources. Optimism prevails in nearly all lines.

The grinding season of 1914-15 has just closed, and the accepted figures are that the crop consisted of 2,582,845 tons, valued at \$204,000,000, or more than \$68 per capita for every man, woman, and child on the island. The prospects are good for the new grinding season, which begins in December. The cane crop is well grown and a large yield is anticipated, some of the experts even going as far as to predict a 3,000,000-ton crop. It will undoubtedly be somewhat larger than that of 1914-15. The good prices have stimulated an increase in acreage to some extent. Less fertilizer has been used on the crop maturing, it is stated, than heretofore, owing to difficulty in obtaining the proper constituents, and this will tend to make the profits somewhat larger where this has been the case.

Until the end of April, 1915, sugar was quoted at so many reales (Spanish) per arroba (25 pounds), but since the first of May, the quotations have been in centavos, or cents, per pound, and will continue to be so quoted.

Many of the centrals and ingenios have taken advantage of the good prices, and easily obtained money to replace antiquated machinery with more modern equipment, thus being able to effect economies in production and at the same time increase output. Owners of these up-to-date mills feel sure that even when there is a return to low prices, after the European war, operations will still be profitable.

Big Orders for Machinery from United States.

The quantity of new sugar machinery already imported or contracted for is something tremendous, and all of it coming from the United States. Great efforts are being made to get installations complete for the season, which begins next month, and manufacturers in the States are rushing the work as rapidly as possible. Indications are that more equipment will be purchased during the coming year, the newer mills forcing the older ones, in self-defense, to bring their equipment up to modern standards. Rumors of new organizations to go into sugar making may be heard.

The tobacco growers have suffered considerably from the war. Germany was a large customer, taking \$1,109,506 worth in 1914. That market is practically eliminated, as also is Austria-Hungary. England has cut down importations. But the depression in tobacco is confined to certain areas and does not play a very important part in the general business situation. Exportations to South America and to Spain have increased.

The tourist season has opened up very favorably at Habana and the winter race meet is expected to bring a largely augmented crowd of winter visitors. Taken altogether, business conditions in the island are good and the time is opportune for the opening of new lines and pushing established ones.

MAKING AN EXPORT POLICY.

"Let me urge first and at all times that we be businesslike in our methods of getting foreign trade. Let me urge that we use the same sane, commonsense business methods which have been so successful in domestic trade." This was the keynote of the address on "The Making of an Export Policy," by Dr. Edward Ewing Pratt, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, delivered December 7 before the International Trade Conference held in New York under the auspices of the National Association of Manufacturers. He repeatedly urged sanity and businesslike methods in developing export trade.

After touching on the markets open to the exporter, Dr. Pratt took up the more technical problems that must be studied before an actual entry is made into foreign fields. "The problems which I want to raise with you here to-day," he said, "are all of them problems which you have settled with reference to your domestic business. They now present themselves in connection with export trade from a different angle. To these decisions you must apply your usual and ordinary business tests. They are quite ample."

If it is decided to embark in the export business, a decision must be made as to the executive direction of the export department of the business and as to the selection of possible markets. The speaker urged that no less an officer than the vice president should be put in charge of the export department, or if the business was too small for a separate department the executive head of the firm should give his personal attention to the foreign business. The selection of markets is also of primary importance. "If you can make that decision without personal investigation, well and good; if you can not, then go and see for yourself."

The subject of selling policies was dealt with at length by Dr. Pratt, who took up one after another the many technical questions with which the exporters and manufacturers are confronted when they come to decide just what methods they want to adopt in selling to foreign markets. The advantages and disadvantages of selling direct, selling through a manufacturer's agent, and dealing through an export commission house were taken up in turn.

A word of warning was extended to manufacturers who may be planning to dump goods in foreign markets at prices lower than charged in the domestic market. "If you have decided to dump a surplus product in foreign markets at prices lower than those which you charge in domestic markets, have you fully taken into consideration the fact that you have made the definite decision that you are not going into foreign trade?" asked the speaker.

Dr. Pratt maintained that if the manufacturer intended to do business direct he must be prepared to finance his shipments at 90 days' sight or longer. "If you want your money in advance or in cash, you must do business through a middleman," he explained. If the manufacturer intends to deal direct and extend the usual credits, he must also collect some of this information at first hand. And he must be prepared to run the usual credit risks.

NO SCARCITY OF STITCHING WIRE IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul J. N. McCunn, Glasgow, Nov. 10.]

There is no present scarcity of stapling wires and boxmaker's and bookbinder's wires in Glasgow. The chief source of supply is the town of Cleckheaton, near Birmingham, England. From interviews with several of the leading consumers it appears that the principal gauges used are 19 to 23 flat and round steel wire. Of course there is a very much smaller gauge used for binding time tables, diaries, and smaller classes of work. Wires are usually supplied in reels or spools and the average number of stitches on, say, No. 23 reel is 30,000 and the weight is estimated at about 8 pounds.

One of the leading printing and bookbinding firms in Glasgow states that for some time past it has been using iron wire in place of steel wire. The firm explains that its chief work is done on American wire stitching machines, and that it is thoroughly satisfied with the results.

Current Prices.

The market prices for the current month on several of the principal sizes of best round mild-steel stitching machine wire are:

Gauge.	Price per pound for—		Price per 112 pounds for 12 spools and over.
	1 to 5 spools.	6 to 11 spools.	
17/21	\$0.15	\$0.11½	\$10.94
22	.15½	.12	11.12
23	.16	.12½	11.43
24	.17	.13	11.98
25	.18	.13½	12.52
26	.19	.14½	13.01
27	.21	.16	14.53
28	.22	.16½	15.74
29	.23	.17½	16.35
30	.24	.18	16.96

Spools charged at 15 cents each and credited when returned in good condition carriage paid. Hundredweight lots delivered carriage paid.

Bookbinders Buy Direct.

American exporters desirous of getting into this market should quote a price delivered here. Other manufacturers of wire follow this course, and most of them have agents on the spot who carry stocks and call on consumers regularly. Bookbinders always buy direct from manufacturers or through their representatives, and only the smaller printers take any interest in jobbers.

[Samples of the iron wire used by one of the leading Glasgow bookbinderies may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branches. A list of the principal users of stitching wire in the Scotch metropolis may be obtained from the same offices. Refer to file No. 69234.]

A list of the automobiles authorized to use the highways of the municipality of Cienfuegos, Cuba, with the names and addresses of their owners, has been forwarded by Consul Richard M. Bartleman and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69,082. According to the latest statistics—those for 1914—the estimated population of the municipality was 81,502, and that of the city of Cienfuegos 34,546.

BELFAST OPENING FOR AMERICAN GLASSWARE.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Ireland, Oct. 22.]

There is a good demand here for plate and sheet glass, bottles used in the mineral water trade, table glass, and pressed glass, but the only way by which American manufacturers can hope to obtain a share in the trade of this market is by close study of its requirements. Some particulars of patterns and prices of glass articles which were formerly imported into Belfast from European countries are here given:

Plain glass jug (tankard shape)—to hold 1 pint, \$8.76 per gross; 1½ pints, \$10.22; 2 pints, \$10.95. These are packed in cases of 10 dozen to 12½ dozen.

Molded wine glass, 5 inch—\$1.82 per gross, in cases of 50 dozen.

Molded wine glass, with fern (sand blast), 5 inch—\$2.25 per gross, in cases of 50 dozen.

Tumbler, plain blown (light)—to hold ¼ quart, \$1.82 per gross, in 50-dozen cases; ½ pint, \$2.43 per gross, in 25-dozen cases; ¾ pint, \$3.16 per gross, in 15-dozen cases.

Tumbler, molded (heavy)—to hold ¼ quart, \$1.82 per gross, in 50-dozen cases; ½ pint, \$2.31 per gross, in 25-dozen cases; ¾ pint, \$3.65 per gross, in 15-dozen cases.

Tumbler, molded (heavy bottom)—to hold ¼ quart, \$2.43 per gross, in 50-dozen cases; ½ pint, \$3.04 per gross, in 25-dozen cases; ¾ pint, \$4.01 per gross, in 15-dozen cases.

Tumbler, flanged or bell shape (heavy bottom)—to hold ¼ quart, \$2.55 per gross, in 50-dozen cases; ½ pint, \$3.40 per gross, in 25-dozen cases; ¾ pint, \$4.01 per gross, in 15-dozen cases; up to \$4.38 per gross.

Carafe, plain (thin)—\$7.30 per gross, in cases of 10 dozen to 12½ dozen.

Carafe, key-and-circle pattern—\$10.22 to \$10.95 per gross, in cases of 10 dozen to 12½ dozen.

Thin tumbler, blown, key-and-circle pattern—to hold ½ pint, \$3.40 per gross, in cases of 25 dozen.

Popular Bottle Used in Production of Aerated Water.

A popular bottle used here for aerated water is a container for ginger ale holding 10 ounces and weighing from 16 to 17 ounces, with an approximate cost of from \$3.28 to \$3.41 per gross, delivered in Belfast. It is claimed by local manufacturers of mineral and aerated waters that American bottles are no stronger than those now being handled in this market, yet they are a much better color (clearer glass), and if American manufacturers could deliver bottles in Belfast at about the prices here reported, preference would be given to the American wares. Prices should be quoted for delivery in Belfast in all cases.

[For general local trade conditions interested persons are referred to the report from Belfast published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 29, 1915. Lists of the principal local firms handling glassware may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68,960.]

Samples of rice from Sao Paulo, Brazil, accompanying a report from Consul Maddin Summers, telling of the short rice crop in that State, which was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for September 28, 1915, have been received, and will be loaned to interested persons on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 65,838.

COMMERCIAL NOTES FROM JAPAN.

[Press excerpts transmitted by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Nov. 2.]

Establishment of Sino-Japanese Bank.

Some time ago the Government invited Japanese bankers and publicists to submit their views on the proposed establishment of a Sino-Japanese bank. It is now stated that the authorities have finished drafting regulations for the proposed undertaking, which will be introduced in the next session of the diet. It is proposed, according to the "Yorodzu" (Tokyo), to establish the head office in Shanghai and branches in the principal cities of China, with a capital of 20,000,000 yen (\$9,960,000), which is to be raised from among both Japanese and Chinese. The new bank will be invested with the right of issuing paper currency and granted a subsidy by the Japanese Government when its profits are not sufficient to enable it to pay a 7 per cent dividend.

Increased Bank Deposits.

Before the outbreak of war the maximum amount of idle money in the hands of the Tokyo Associated Banks used to be about 50,000,000 yen (\$24,900,000), and the minimum 20,000,000 yen (\$9,960,000). Since the war it has been steadily increasing. On September 25 it amounted to 77,000,000 yen (\$38,346,000), and on October 23, 1915, it jumped to 83,000,000 yen (\$41,334,000), a figure unprecedentedly high, as compared with the 51,000,000 yen (\$25,398,000) recorded for the corresponding day of last year.

Shipbuilding Operations.

The Osaka "Asahi" says that in the various shipbuilding yards in Japan 65 steamers, of some 269,450 tons, are now under construction for Japanese and foreign firms. Eight vessels, representing 53,000 tons, have been built since the beginning of the year or are nearing completion, while the majority of the remainder are expected to be completed next year. Since the outbreak of the present war, the importation of steamers from abroad has been impossible, and because of this all the shipbuilding yards are unprecedentedly active.

The following shows the number and the total tonnage of foreign steamers imported into this country during the past five years: 1910, 20 of 40,268 tons; 1911, 49 of 129,454 tons; 1912, 39 of 84,968 tons; 1913, 72 of 205,200 tons; and 1914, 38 of 97,123 tons.

Extending Wool Top Producing Plants.

In view of the situation in the woolen market some of the Japanese woolen millers are inaugurating or increasing their top-producing plants. The Nippon Woolen Co., for instance, has decided to extend its tops mill, which was originally designed to turn over between 150,000 pounds and 200,000 pounds for the company's weaving department, and to produce between 250,000 pounds and 300,000 pounds in the future, with a view not only to increasing the supply to the company's weaving mill, but to meeting the requirements of other companies which have no top-producing mill of their own. An order has been placed with a certain French machine shop through its Osaka agent for the machinery to be installed in the new mill, which is planned to be in full operation by April of next year.

The Osaka Muslin Co., too, is reported to have decided to inaugurate the manufacture of tops in the near future as side work. Machines are reported to have been ordered from France.

Increased Demand for Glass Bottles.

With the progress of the war in Europe the demand for glass bottles manufactured in Japan is fast increasing in India, Australia, and other countries in the South Pacific. From Great Britain and the United States many orders are forthcoming. The demand is especially acute in Australia, and it is reported that very large orders have recently been received from that country. The manufacturers in Tokyo, Osaka, and other cities are now devoting their energies entirely to the filling of orders from abroad.

Shipments of Bean Oil for United States.

According to the Osaka "Asahi," the shipments of bean-oil from Japan to England and the United States are considerable. Since the latter part of November orders for 20,000 cases have been received from New York, and it is expected that further orders will be forthcoming from that quarter. From Dairen upward of 84,000 cases have recently been shipped to New York on the steamer *Lincoln*. Hitherto the oil has been forwarded exclusively to England, whence it is reshipped to the United States.

WORK OF COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY IN ALASKA.

Wire-drag party No. 3 of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, working in Alaska under the direction of J. A. Daniels, closed work in the northern part of Clarence Strait on October 12. Remarkably fine weather was experienced throughout the season and good progress was made. A total of 338 square miles of area was covered by this party, 125 square miles in Revillagigedo Channel, between Twin Island and Lord Rocks, and 214 square miles in Clarence Strait, from Guard Island to Snow Passage. This is a larger area than has heretofore been covered by a single drag party in one season. Several important dangers were found, two of which had been marked with buoys by the Bureau of Lighthouses before the party left Alaska. Between Ketchikan and Snow Passage there are now five rocks marked by buoys that have been found with the drag in the past two seasons. In addition to the wire-drag work, triangulation and topography were made a part of the regular work of the party.

Wire-drag party No. 4, under L. O. Colbert, also included triangulation and shore-line revision in its program of work. The area covered with the drag extends from the southern entrance to Shakan Bay, around Point Baker to Point Colpoys. A small gap in Snow Passage now separates the limits of the areas dragged by parties Nos. 3 and 4.

The work in the vicinity of Port Baker was difficult, owing to adverse currents. Tidal swirls in varying directions swept the launches off their courses, and the equipment was endangered by grounding on shoals previously found. The area dragged by party No. 4 was 170 square miles.

AMERICAN INTERESTS AFFECTED BY CUBAN DECREE.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The very considerable American interests in the island of Cuba, and the Isle of Pines, as a part of that Republic, are affected by the latest Cuban presidential decree on the subject of the conversion of contracts, which heretofore by their terms were payable in Spanish or French gold. The decree applies to all classes of contracts, whether for land payments, services, or deliveries of merchandise.

This recent and probably the final decree looking to readjustment of the financial system of Cuba is important in another particular, in that it is a virtual recession from the first decree of September 11, modified supplementally a few days later, in which the rate at which the Spanish and French gold coins of \$5.30 value might be converted to the new Cuban money was given. The first decree, of September 11, fixed the conversion rate at \$5 (Cuban and United States currency, now the only legal tender in the Republic). The modification of a few days later put the conversion rate at \$4.82, at which it has stood, and at which the great bulk of foreign gold in commercial circulation has been exchanged.

This last decree of November 22 on the conversion of contracts very plainly departs from the former pronouncement and allows the rate to be agreed upon by the parties to the contract, for there are several allusions to the "agreements regarding the conversion of foreign currency into legal circulating medium" and "the conversion of money agreed upon" and "the rate of exchange," which leaves the contracting parties free, manifestly, to make their own rate of conversion and exchange such as may be expedient or mutually agreeable and satisfactory to themselves. The new agreements are relieved of registration costs and tax fees.

Chief Provisions of the Decree, as Affecting Contracts.

In all contracts which are registered as public documents the agreements regarding the conversion of foreign currency into legal circulating medium can be made by deed before the various authorities. * * * In the document it is necessary to state that both interested parties appeared (giving details of names and character in which they appear, etc.), followed by a clear reference to the original deed or contract, date, official authorizing the same; and if made before a public notary, the number of the document; limiting themselves in the substantial part to the amount involved in foreign currency and the rate of exchange, and amount to be paid in legal circulating medium; referring also to the volume, page, and number of the registered property inscription or document, as the case may be.

The conversion of money agreed upon in these documents, when they contain no other stipulations affecting the original document, will be exempt from the payment of realty taxes, or taxes on the transfer of property, and the document need not be presented to the liquidating tax office.

With the authorized copies of these documents, must be presented, in the property or mercantile register, the original deed or contract, and the contents will be noted by such register in the entry subsequent to the deed affected by the same. These agreements go into effect with

reference to third parties from and after the date of registration. The decree was effective November 22, 1915.

[Articles on Cuban currency changes were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 6, May 21, May 5, and Mar. 11, 1915. A copy in English of the currency law has been on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce since last February, and will be loaned to those interested on request.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Dec. 10	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tacoma, concluding at the latter place Dec. 10, 1915. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

PETROLEUM IN COLOMBIA.

[Consul Isaac A. Manning, Barranquilla, Nov. 8.]

The petroleum deposits of Colombia continue to attract attention from capitalists; and, while the only active exploration work is being done by the Standard Oil Co. in the Sinu region, numerous other syndicates, principally from the United States, have recently sent investigators into this country.

Petroleum seepage, heretofore unrecorded, have been found in all the Departments bordering on the Magdalena River as far south as Girardot, where the railway connects the steamboat traffic of the river with Bogota. In the Magdalen Basin some optional contracts have been taken, which, if made operative, will call for the commencement of active boring operations on the lands during the next eighteen months. In most of these cases the names of the principals have been reserved.

The Colombian Congress has had under consideration several legislative bills governing petroleum exploration, but so far nothing has been done with any of them. As Congress will probably adjourn on November 18, it is thought unlikely that any important legislation will be adopted regulating this industry.

TRADE DEVELOPMENT IN SIBERIA.

[From report of special Canadian trade commissioner, published in *Weekly Bulletin of Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce*, Oct. 4, 1915.]

For purposes of trade development Siberia falls into two divisions: Western and eastern Siberia. In the western division, stretching from the Urals to a line drawn through Irkutsk, the local trade conditions and their controlling influences may be assimilated to those operating in European Russia. In eastern Siberia, including the Trans-Baikal Province, however, special geographical and economic factors tend to make this remote region one apart, and the trade must therefore be dealt with by itself.

Siberia as a whole may be said to be peculiarly dependent upon foreign-trade exchanges for its prosperity. The population of the country, now 13,000,000, is being constantly recruited by migration from European Russia, the net migration for the fifteen years from 1898 to 1912 having been no less than 2,750,000. It is a fact, moreover, that the producing and consuming power of this population is relatively much higher than that of any similar proportion of the Russian people in the rest of the Empire.

One of the most important factors in the development of Siberia is its transportation facilities. The whole hydrographic system that supplements the Transsiberian Railroad is bisected by that railroad, and for thousands of miles, north and south of the line, supplies the most splendid means of cheap access to vast areas during the greater portion of the year. These facilities are being continually increased by the construction of new railways and by river-improvement works, which aim to connect the whole river system of the country for practical transportation purposes.

During the last 10 years the home trade of Siberia has grown from \$30,900,000 to \$77,250,000 annually. Trade expansion is shown by the business of the fairs and markets, the carrying trade returns of the chief centers of distribution, the growth in the number of banks, forwarding houses, insurance offices, etc., and the extraordinary activity of the building trade. There is everywhere an increasing tendency toward intensive and advanced methods of exploitation of the chief products of Siberia. The growth of butter and egg exports has been phenomenal, when one considers the problems of transportation. Bacon, a more recent article of export, is rapidly becoming a trade of first-class importance. The census figures of 1910 give the number of factories of all kinds as 14,160, with an output valued at \$38,625,000, an increase of 75 per cent in the number and of 150 per cent in production over the figures for 1900. [The Russian returns class as factories all small industries employing labor.] The chief increase in these establishments has been in connection with flour mills, sawmills, breweries, etc. Practically the entire equipment of these and similar undertakings was imported.

Trade Methods—Credit—Business Centers.

Moscow merchants control fully 50 per cent of the trade of western Siberia. These firms have branches in the principal centers, but the purchases for their stores are made in Moscow. The growth of the country and the establishment of strong local independent firms, however, are gradually bringing about a change and direct buying must ultimately become a general practice. Most of the foreign

firms doing business in Russia pay little attention to the Siberian market; they are content to place their representation in the hands of a single firm in European Russia, with the result that their interests suffer. The practice of the agent is to appoint a subagent for Siberia, and the fact that both intermediaries are looking for a substantial profit increases the cost of the goods and thus restricts sales. By trade grouping and by sending out at regular intervals competent travelers speaking the language and carrying a full line of samples to the chief centers, German firms have been able to build up a direct trade on a satisfactory basis. Financial strength to carry on trade is a greater necessity in western Siberia than in European Russia, and trade grouping by outside firms wishing to enter that market is of first importance. While the profits are great, expenses also are high, and it is a wise policy to share them in testing a new market. Local agents urge that responsible representatives of grouped industries should visit the country and get into touch with local conditions.

The granting of extended credit has been an important factor in obtaining business, for there is little liquid capital in a country during the early stages of colonization and agricultural development. In practice, therefore, the foreign exporter must be prepared to carry on business with his own capital. The western Siberian market is safe, however, if care is exercised in granting credit. Except in the case of agricultural, mining, and general machinery, the average credit of 6 to 9 months from date of delivery of goods—which generally takes 3 months from remoter countries—might have to be faced, although it was stated that a modification of these terms might be arranged. It is useless to think of opening up business under other conditions; the cost of credit can be realized in the prices. Trial orders must not be ignored, but must receive, with the larger orders, the closest attention. Bank discounts are as follows: On prime bills, 3 months, $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; 6 months, 7 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; 9 months, 9 to 10 per cent.

The most advantageously placed business centers in western Siberia are Omsk, Tomsk, Tobolsk, Novonikolaievsk, Kransoyarsk, and Irkutsk. The first and the last three are situated at points where the Transsiberian Railway crosses the principal rivers of the country, which provide cheap transportation over vast areas during the greater portion of the year. Omsk and Novonikolaievsk are of special importance as distributing centers for agricultural machinery, etc., and the Government maintains at those points agricultural experiment stations and official testing grounds for agricultural machinery and implements.

Credit Associations and Their Effect in Agricultural-Machinery Trade.

Among the factors facilitating trade in western Siberia must be considered the spirit of affiliation inherent in the Russian peasant class, which has given birth to an important cooperative movement. Credit associations, consisting of groups of peasants to whom Government aid is given in the shape of credit on the joint responsibility of the group, exist in large numbers and are multiplying as the newer districts are opened up and settled. There are 300 official agricultural machinery and implement depots in Siberia, which advance farm equipment to poor settlers at low prices and on easy terms of

payment. The dairying interest in western Siberia is represented by a union comprising 530 societies, with 120,000 members, who deal only through the societies. The societies are bound by their statutes to the sale of dairy appliances only.

In the agricultural-machinery business the effect of the facilities offered by these aids has been the withdrawal of many wholesalers from business. While this is perhaps regrettable in a sense, it has its compensations for the manufacturer, who, by selling to the credit associations, is on safer ground. His rate of profit, it is true, will be diminished, but in view of the probability of a larger turnover, the aggregate profits should be greater, as the consumption of agricultural machinery must inevitably increase. The shorter credit demanded by these associations enables the manufacturer to work with a smaller capital. They possess the local knowledge that enables them to sell to the right people, and, most important of all, they possess the means of securing a relatively quicker liquidation of debts and of enforcing payment in doubtful cases by tactful pressure through their members. Their losses from bad debts are said to be practically nil. The wholesaler, on the other hand, has still the best class of farmers with whom to trade, and, in practice, prices do not fall below a figure offering a reasonable profit. It was stated that this has been demonstrated in the business transacted by the official agricultural depots, which are finding by experience that the cost of administration and the minimum losses through bad debts will not permit them to sell at the low prices originally fixed. Their competition, therefore, has not been the ruinous one predicted at the outset. The credit associations by their statutes are limiting their dealings to a small number of articles, and the general merchant is thus relieved of a portion of his business that caused him anxieties and losses not commensurate with the accrued profits.

Sales of Agricultural-Machinery Depots.

Particulars of the operations of the cooperative and credit associations are not available, but those of the official agricultural machinery depots, furnished by the directors of the Colonization Department at Omsk, show the following sales in recent years: 1910, \$2,560,000; 1911, \$3,502,000; 1912, \$4,347,000; 1913, \$3,760,000. Of the debts contracted between 1897 and 1907 only 2½ per cent remained unpaid at the close of 1913. There are between 250 and 300 of these depots in operation in Siberia, which at the end of 1913 had machinery in stock valued at over \$2,500,000. The sales are generally made on the basis of payment of half of the value of the article acquired during the first year, the remainder being paid off in installments according to the ability of the settler, which is governed by the result of the harvest.

The character and value of the chief classes of machinery, implements, etc., sold by the official Siberian depots in 1913 were as follows:

Articles.	Number.	Value.	Articles.	Number.	Value.
Plows:			Broadcast seeders.....	264	16,481
Single	35,794	\$428,760	Broadcast seeders and disk drills	473	35,290
Double	4,198	97,057	Mowers	2,955	21,181
Plows and seeders combined.....	1,934	67,509	Hay rakes	2,962	95,451
Cultivators	497	12,403	Reaping attachments.....	1,306	15,373
Harrows.....	1,010	13,045			

Articles.	Number.	Value.	Articles.	Number.	Value.
Reapers:			Wagons	2,891	138,311
Russian	3,023	261,344	Fire engines (pumps)	45	6,233
Other	3,104	303,689	Weighing machines	454	9,228
Binders	1,150	233,994	Sickle and scythe grinders	1,801	12,194
Thrashers:			Axes	7,213	3,724
Factory-made, with			Forks	3,271	933
horsepower	1,234	371,408	Shovels	1,362	323
Home-made, hand power	1,845	210,784	Scythes	3,933	1,294
Winnowers and cleaners	6,205	123,824	Lubricating oil	24,159	37,851
Grain sorters and separators	347	43,017	Cleaning machines	2,539	9,625
Mill stones (sets)	476	23,777	Textile articles	7,109	2,332
Flax, hemp, and cotton card-			Wire and zinc sieves	12,626	2,780
ing machines	154	11,173	Belting:		
Chaff cutters	374	7,637	Leather	22,005	14,271
Beating machines for flax			Woven	21,052	6,881
and hemp	68	2,301	Roofing sheets of iron and		
Hay presses	15	1,465	steel	214,193	292,508
Oil-pressing machinery		17,999	Binder twine	659,203	85,287
Cream separators	343	14,653	Tarpaulins, sacks	305,037	56,353
Churns	173	2,354	Grain and other products		26,472
Wheels, wagon	1,514	12,808	Seed grains		63,481

* Pounds.

A visit was paid to the farm-machinery testing grounds on the Irtysh River, near Omsk, where excellent experimental work is carried out. Of special interest were the arrangements for testing the various kinds of farm machinery and implements under the direction of the Colonization Department. Foreign agricultural implements and machinery are admitted on equal terms with those of Russian manufacture and are carefully and impartially tested. The relative efficiency and suitability for their respective purposes under Siberian climate and soil conditions are also determined and made public. Specimens of the most suitable machines of all kinds are on view for the visiting farmers, information is supplied, and demonstrations are given if necessary.

Agricultural Machines and Implements Wanted.

Siberia, being practically without manufacturing industries, presents a large and growing market for almost all kinds of manufactured articles, of which agricultural machinery and implements stand easily at the head. In complicated machines, such as self-binders, reapers, mowers, and rakes, the International Harvester Co.'s Moscow works dominate the position; further supplies are obtained from the United States and Canada, which arrive via the Baltic port. Plows are now mainly of Russian manufacture, roughly but strongly finished, all patterned after the Sack or Eckert (German) types. The walking plow is used almost entirely, combined with a sower, which drops the seed into the open furrow, the next following share covering it. Two and three furrow plows of this description sell for \$17 to \$21; four to seven furrow, with seeder, \$20 to \$44. The shortage of plows in western Siberia is already considerable. Disk drills and disk harrows have become popular. The large Anglo-Russian factory at Ekaterinoslaf manufactures a good disk drill, which suits the soil conditions of Siberia. The disks are fitted at small intervals, four instead of the usual six inches; they are also adjustable, a point in which the Russian disk drill is considered superior to the imported article. Potato diggers are also in demand; they should be lighter than the ordinary American pattern and should be provided with a more stable delivery table. In regard to cultivators, any improve-

ment in construction that would render the teeth less liable to be clogged by weeds would insure good sales. Small thrashing machines, with horse gears, are used in great numbers, and the supply is generally short. They are being successfully imported from Great Britain in competition with the local make. The price at the factory for the 4-horsepower size is \$62; 6-horsepower, \$72; 8-horsepower, \$82.

Tractors—Flour-mill Machinery—Farm Wagons.

Oil tractors are preferred in western Siberia, as the prevalence of alkaline water is against the steam-driven engine. Lightness is a desirable feature; the heavy engines with their narrow wheels pack the soil and prevent growth of vegetation. Tractors of the "caterpillar" type have been introduced. A few sets of these for plowing have been disposed of among the larger landowners, and the prospects for increased business are good. The country, however, is still relatively poor, and the general use of expensive farm machinery must be a matter of slow growth.

Flour-mill machinery (roller process) to grind 1,000 to 3,000 poods (18 to 54 short tons) of grain in 24 hours is in increased demand, as well as oil engines of the Diesel type, of 50 to 80 horsepower, required to operate them. Extra heavy flywheels are preferred. The rapid rise of the dairying industry in western Siberia is responsible for a large demand for separators, which have hitherto been supplied by Germany and Sweden.

Farm wagons built of ash, with oak hubs, in three sizes, are needed in large numbers, the actual source of supply in the Caucasus and Northern Russia being unable to meet the present requirements. Prices range from \$39 to \$41 each, delivered at Omsk, but these prices are exceptional and are not likely to be maintained in normal times.

Hardware and Tools—Sewing Machines.

Stocks of hardware and tools, which are almost exclusively of German origin, are being rapidly depleted. In one typical store, with a business of \$1,550,000 a year, the following articles were noted as being urgently required: Common cutlery, skates, razors, barber's hair clippers, pumps (hand pumps especially), screw-cutting lathes, stocks and dies, bolts and nuts, pulleys, valves and fittings for radiators, electric-light fittings, lamps, bell pushes and fans, meters, dynamos, leather belting, common oil burners, clothes wringers, drills and tools, files, frame saws, handsaws, drilling machines, common shovels and locomotive shovels, freezing machines, scythes, hay forks, enameled ironware, tools of every class, and builders' hardware.

Siberia offers a promising market for sewing machines. Outside of those made in Russia by a well-known American company, the greater number sold are of German origin, and supplies of the latter are now exhausted. The machines are bought on the basis of extended monthly payments. The following are the normal prices of these machines, delivered, duty paid, at Omsk: Long shuttle, \$9.12; ring shuttle, \$12.36; central spool, \$13; vibrating, \$10.09. All machines are to be made with covers, or, if without, they are \$1.03 cheaper. The terms are nine months' acceptance from the date of shipment, duty and freight to be paid by the purchaser.

STEAMSHIP CONNECTION WITH DUTCH EAST INDIES.

[Consul B. S. Bairden, Batavia, Java, Oct. 18.]

The Java Pacific Steamship Line will dispatch its first steamer, probably from Batavia as first port, about December 15, 1915, such steamer being the *Arakan* of the Rotterdam Lloyd Steamship Co. About January 15, 1916, the steamer *Bawean* of the Maatschappij Nederland will follow.

These steamers will be cargo boats, but the steamers leaving probably in February and March, 1916 (the dates of sailing from Batavia are not yet fixed), will be the two steamers of the Java-China Line (the *Tjisondari* and the *Tjikembang*), which have limited first-class passenger accommodations.

At first the Java Pacific Line will run four boats of about 9,000 tons deadweight capacity and the ports of call after leaving Java will probably be Macassar, Manila, Hongkong, Moji, San Francisco, and perhaps Puget Sound.

The agents in Batavia state that this line will not receive a subsidy from the Netherlands Government.

Freight and passenger schedules will be furnished this consulate as soon as they are published.

The Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij (the Royal Packet Co.) has a steamship service from Java ports to Bangkok; such service, however, is very irregular.

The agents for the Dutch regular steamship service between Java and New York are issuing through bills of lading for Bangkok, with transshipment at Batavia or other Java ports. Some 60 tons of such American cargo has been received recently from New York and will go forward to Bangkok at the end of this month. Rates of freight on goods from New York to Bangkok via Java can not be quoted, as such rates are liable to change.

CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN ONION CROP.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Nov. 4.]

The bulletin of November 1, 1915, of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture reports as follows in regard to the present condition of the onion crop during October, 1915: The weather is favorable and the water supply ample. Transplanting has commenced in Beni Suef and Minia. Elsewhere, weeding, hoeing, and manuring are in progress. A larger area than last year is being sown this season on the sandy lands of the banks and islands on the Nile.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

- Hosiery, underclothing, etc., No. 19459.**—A manufacturers' agent in South Africa informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of handling hosiery, underclothing for women and children, and piece goods. Interested firms must be prepared to give sole-agency rights for South Africa on a commission basis. Correspondence may be in English. References furnished.
- Corset tapes and steels, No. 19460.**—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase large quantities of white and gray corset tapes, and coil steels varying in lengths from 7 to 14½ inches, and from 8 to 14 inches. Steels should be guaranteed rust proof. Samples of the tape and steels have been forwarded, and may be inspected at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 69166.) Bank references given.
- Paper, No. 19461.**—A report from an American consular officer in India states that inquiry has been made for quotations on white paper used in the manufacture of playing cards, and also chromo paper used in preparing labels. Samples of the paper desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 69294.)
- Cotton goods and burlap sacks, No. 19462.**—A firm in South Africa informs an American consular officer that it desires to correspond with textile manufacturers for the purpose of buying unbleached cottons in widths of 24, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36 inches; and white shirtings and indigo drills in the same widths. The firm is also interested in burlap sacks, using from 25,000 to 30,000 annually. Samples of the cotton goods may be examined at the bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 68920.) It is requested that samples and full information be sent with the first letter. Correspondence should be in French, Spanish, or Portuguese. Bank references furnished.
- Automobiles, No. 19463.**—The commercial agent in charge of the bureau's branch office in Chicago reports that a firm in the West Indies desires to communicate with manufacturers of light automobiles.
- Sulphate of copper, No. 19464.**—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that there is a demand for immediate delivery of sulphate of copper amounting to about 12,000,000 pounds, percentage of mineral to be about 98 per cent. Prices and terms on 100 tons should be quoted by cable.
- Motion-picture films, No. 19465.**—A report from an American consular officer states there is a demand in Italy for positive and negative films for cinematograph purposes. It is stated that firms are unable to produce motion pictures for want of films, and 1,000,000 feet would be a minimum requirement. Correspondence may be in English.
- Chemicals and tanning materials, No. 19466.**—A report from an American consular officer in Greece states that a commission agent is desirous of being placed in communication with firms manufacturing chemicals and materials for tanning leather. Correspondence must be in French or modern Greek.
- Mica, No. 19467.**—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm in Turkey is anxious to purchase mica in polygonal, irregular leaves and also mica splitting for the making of mica-rite and powdered mica.
- Fire apparatus, No. 19468.**—An American consular officer in Costa Rica reports that there is a possible market in his district for fire apparatus. It is suggested that catalogues and full information be sent.
- General representation, No. 19469.**—A firm of commission agents in Brazil informs an American consular officer that it wishes to act as representative in that country for firms desiring to enter that market. Bank references given.
- Knitting machine needles, No. 19470.**—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district is desirous of purchasing knitting machine needles. The report states that the inquirer's first order would be for 100,000 needle if information is satisfactory. Samples of the needles desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 69362.)

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 287 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, December 8 1915

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CHANGE IN NETHERLANDS EMBARGO LIST.

[Telegram from American consul general, Rotterdam, received Dec. 4, 1915.]

The embargo has been raised on walnut trees less than 3 meters (about 10 feet) in height.

VISITS OF FOREIGN-TRADE REPRESENTATIVES.

Several important foreign connections for American manufacturers have been made as a result of recent visits to Philadelphia, it is reported by the cooperative branch office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in that city.

A business man from Adelaide, Australia, informed the representative of the Bureau that he had made connections with no less than 12 manufacturers to represent them in Australia. A New Zealand business man made connections with several concerns, one of which was a large manufacturer of shoe leather, and another a manufacturer of animal and poultry food. Three Chinese delegates to the Panama Exposition also made connections with the leather manufacturer already mentioned, and probably also with a manufacturer of carpets, on a visit to Philadelphia.

CANADA'S WHEAT YIELD FOR YEAR ESTIMATED.

[Extract from Monetary Times, Nov. 26, forwarded by Vice Consul Horace M. Sanford, Ottawa, Canada.]

According to an official estimate of the wheat yield in Canada this year, out of a total yield of 336,258,000 bushels there will be an exportable surplus of 228,132,000 bushels. The average loss in cleaning, and allowance of 10 per cent for grain not of merchantable quality, is estimated at 33,625,000 bushels. The total amount retained for seeding next year's crop, say 14,000,000 acres, at 1.75 bushels per acre, is placed at 24,500,000 bushels. The amount required for food, averaging 6.25 bushels per head, is estimated at 50,000,000 bushels. The quantity of wheat and wheat flour estimated as available for export is 85,558,000 bushels in excess of the previous high record of 1913-14 and represents nearly 68 per cent of the total production of 1915.

AUSTRALIA HAS LARGE SURPLUS WHEAT CROP.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Oct. 27.]

The problem of obtaining vessels to carry the Australian wheat crop to Europe is a serious one. The crop in 1914 was so short, in consequence of the excessive drought, that it was found necessary to import large quantities from the United States and Canada, but this year's surplus crop, available for export, is estimated at 100,000,000 bushels, to move which would require about 900 vessels of about 3,000 tons each. The present price asked for tonnage where vessels are available is 90s. (\$21.89) a ton, or about three times the usual freight rates.

In consequence of the distance from Australia to Europe it is pointed out that vessels can make practically three voyages from the United States or Canada to Europe while making one from Australia. In past years sailing vessels have been employed to a large extent in moving the Australian wheat crop, but in consequence of the dangers likely to be encountered the proposition is not so attractive as ordinarily. Farmers have been advised to hold their wheat, instead of rushing it to Sydney, where it might overtax the storage capacity available.

JAPAN'S LOOFAH CROP DECREASED; CHILLI CROP LARGER.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, Oct. 26, forwarded by Consul George N. West, Kobe.]

It was at first expected that this year's loofah crop (snake-gourds) would amount to about 100,000 bales, but the unfavorable weather experienced toward the end of August has decreased the yield to half the quantity. The result has been an upward tendency of the market. The present quotation is more than 100 per cent above that reported at the beginning of August. Stocks on the market are scarce, while only about 15,000 bales remain at the producing center, according to the Asahi. The market is naturally very strong.

It is expected that this year's "Takanotsume" chillies will be much more abundant than last year, amounting to between 500 and 600 tons. Forward contracts for export have been made at about \$10 per 100 kin (kin=1½ pounds) to the quantity of about 200 tons so far. Lately purchasers started operations in Sanuki and other producing centers, with the result that farmers have begun to put up their prices. The Kobe market was immediately affected, and quotations now stand at \$20, while about \$13 was quoted only a few days ago.

JAPANESE SPINNING COMPANIES AMALGAMATED.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, Oct. 26, forwarded by Consul George N. West, Kobe.]

Negotiations for the amalgamation of the Amagasaki and the Nippon Spinning Co. have arrived at a final stage. Business operations of the Nippon Co. will be taken over from December 1 by the Amagasaki Co., but the legal amalgamation of the two companies will be registered as from February 1 of next year. The amalgamated company will be the largest of its kind in Japan except the Kanegafuchi Spinning Co.

AMERICAN TRADE FOR ONE WEEK.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending December 4, 1915, at the 13 principal customs districts of the United States, handling 91 per cent of total imports and exports, based on transactions in the month of September, 1915, follow:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$49,598	\$1,067	\$1,199,562
Massachusetts (Boston).....	2,082,848	158,880	3,284,631
New York.....	23,866,403	3,114,778	63,713,187
Philadelphia.....	1,539,335	261,475	1,214,500
Maryland (Baltimore).....	203,653	59,002	2,377,051
Virginia (Norfolk).....	41,363	25,543	874,801
New Orleans.....	1,103,181	10,210	4,175,603
Galveston.....	34,743	1,492	5,875,289
San Francisco.....	2,063,641	93,736	388,181
Washington (Seattle).....	2,650,427	18,421	3,052,091
Buffalo.....	766,671	25,629	1,062,655
Chicago.....	514,756	144,897	64,063
Michigan (Detroit).....	679,329	49,262	3,269,844
Total.....	35,614,956	3,974,992	10,541,451

The cotton exported during the week ending December 4, 1915, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	15,389	Philadelphia.....		San Francisco.....	100
Massachusetts.....	622	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	4,733
Maryland.....	2,101	Virginia.....		Total.....	114,109
New York.....	11,995	Galveston.....	60,784		
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	18,405		

CALAIS EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul James B. Milner, Calais, France, Nov. 18.]

Exports from Calais to the United States, as certified at the American consulate, amounted to \$844,707 for the quarter ended September 30, 1915. Laces made up a considerable portion of this total, the chief item being cotton laces. The articles and amounts were:

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
Embroideries:		Linen suitings.....		Nettings:	
Silk and cotton.....	\$1,278	Nets.....	\$196	(otton.....	\$73
Silk and tinsel.....	3,960	Cotton.....	879	Silk.....	135
Laces:		Cotton and silk.....	251	Vellings, silk.....	2,413
Cotton.....	706,465	Silk.....	5,360	Total.....	844,707
Silk.....	80,619	Tinsel.....	209		
Silk and cotton.....	18,521				
Tinsel.....	15,328				

SALE OF DANISH VESSELS FORBIDDEN.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Oct. 8.]

The Danish Government has made public a ruling that no Danish tonnage registered and entitled to fly the Danish flag will hereafter be allowed to be sold, transferred, or set over to any citizen or corporation of a foreign power. Vessels holding Danish registration must continue to fly the Danish flag and no transfers will be permitted.

SCARCITY OF FURS IN THE LONDON MARKET.

[Consul Clarence Carrigan, London, England, Nov. 9.]

Interesting figures are published to illustrate the present scarcity of furs in this market, and the corresponding advance in prices. It is stated that the shortage of labor and other conditions caused by the war have advanced prices in general from 40 to 50 per cent.

Figures given by one London concern, showing how their sales have fallen, are: Of musquash, 6,700,000 skins were sold in January, March, and June of 1914, while in three months of the present year only 2,500,000 were sold. The supply of American opossum fell from 1,051,000 to 262,000; mink from 125,000 to 20,000; red fox from 67,000 to 24,000. The number of skunk skins sold dropped from nearly 1,000,000 to 263,000; gray fox from 44,000 to 4,000, and otter from 10,000 to 2,000. The sales of badger dropped from 14,000 to 3,000. In 1914, 275,000 ermine skins were sold, the figures dropping in 1915 to 67,000. There has been a drop of 50 per cent in the demand for squirrel, and a fall of as much as 80 per cent in the demand for chinchilla. The sale of moleskins totals this year some 700,000, while in 1914 it was well over 1,000,000.

London dealers in general seem to expect the present high prices to go even higher. Only four kinds of furs have shown an increase over the sales of 1914. These are opossum, wombat, and red fox, coming from Australia, and marten, of Japanese origin. Prices of American opossum are said to have shown at the autumn sales an increase of 75 per cent over those of last March. Raccoon has increased in price at the same rate. Skunk is in strong demand at an advance in price of 60 per cent, while red fox has advanced 40 per cent in value.

The scarcity of furs and the high prices, as outlined, are largely the result of the fact that so many of the trappers and hunters in the producing countries have left their ordinary occupations.

[Previous articles on the London fur market were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 8, May 29, and November 11, 1915.]

AMERICAN DEMAND FOR JAPANESE MATCHES.

[Japan Gazette, Oct. 29.]

The president of a match-manufacturing company in Kobe, who has just returned from a tour of inspection in the United States, says that since the outbreak of the war there has arisen a demand for Japanese matches on the American market. This is because the import of matches from Sweden and other European countries to the United States has been suspended on account of the war. Americans prefer matches of good quality and do not care so much about the price. The Japanese manufacturers in Osaka have recently forwarded to the United States a quantity of matches of the best quality, these differing radically from those used in Japan or shipped to India and other places in the South Pacific. This accounts for the increasing orders from America. The annual imports of matches from Sweden to the United States has in recent years amounted to over 1,000,000 yen (\$490,000).

AMERICAN SHOE POLISH POPULAR IN STAVANGER.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Norway, Nov. 5.]

Although a few years ago the only shoe polishes on the market in Stavanger were English, German, and Scandinavian, an American brand is now probably as popular as any foreign make. It sells for about 7 cents a small tin and 11 cents a large tin, in sizes corresponding to 5 and 10 cent sizes in America. One dealer who sells many kinds of polish says that he has known the American make for only about a year, but that now he recommends it to buyers and finds a good demand for it.

Most of the shoe polish used in this district is of Norwegian manufacture and of a cheap quality, selling to consumers for 3 cents, being a small-sized box. That there is a market for a better quality of goods at a higher price is proved by the successful introduction of the American brand. American shoes have made great advances here even over those of Norwegian manufacture, and it would seem logical that American shoe polish should follow the American shoe.

As there are only about 150,000 people in this district it would seem that shoe-polish manufacturers interested in this market could reach it more satisfactorily through an agent covering a larger territory as the whole of Norway, or Scandinavia. Such an agent would probably do better if located at Christiania, the capital.

Merchants dealing in this class of goods usually expect three months' credit or pay "cash on arrival." English is generally understood. There is a duty on shoe polish amounting to a little less than 2 cents a pound (including container).

[The names of certain Stavanger firms that might be interested in American shoe polish may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or one of its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69496.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(c)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Cannajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1910. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

HEATING AND COOKING STOVES IN AUSTRALIA.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne.]

The market in Australia for iron heating stoves is practically nil. The island continent of Australia lies between 10° 41' and 39° 8' of south latitude, which in the northern hemisphere would correspond to the northern boundary of Costa Rica, in Central America, and Washington, D. C. Over one-third of the country is within the Tropics, and in no part is very cold weather to be expected. What heating is required is furnished by open grates burning coal or wood or, especially in the country districts, by kerosene stoves of the familiar types made in the United States. In the cities where gas and electricity are available gas logs and electric stoves are largely used.

Cooking Stoves in Use.

For cooking stoves the market has been held by a type of cast-iron stove introduced many years ago by well-known British firms, their respective styles being known as the "Beaconlight" and the "Dover." They are commonly sold in three sizes, as follows:

Kind.	Stove.			Oven.			Weight.
	Width.	Height.	Depth.	Width.	Height.	Depth.	
	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
"Beaconlight":							
No. 7.....	29	23	27	15	8½	15	271
No. 8.....	32	24	30	18	9½	18	328
No. 9.....	37	25	35	19½	11½	19	398
"Dover":							
No. 6.....	26	23	17	12	8	12	154
No. 7.....	29	23½	19	14	8½	14	180
No. 8.....	32	24	21	16	9	16	216

The stoves are adapted to burn coal and wood. The wholesale price in England for the No. 6 "Dover" is about 20 shillings (\$1.86).

There are also local manufacturers in Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, and Sydney who make stoves copied from the above styles in competition with the British makers.

Importation and Production of Stoves.

It is impossible to determine what is the value of stoves imported into Australia, as in the government statistics this item is grouped under the general heading "Manufactures of metal, not elsewhere included." The Commonwealth production of stoves and ovens is stated to have been about \$1,265,000 for the calendar year 1913, but this total also includes gas stoves and register grates. The largest local manufacturer testified before the Interstate Commission that the local makers meet about 10 per cent of the total Commonwealth consumption.

It is evident from the above that the importation into Australia of cooking stoves is of large volume, and is likely to continue for some time to come, although with the development of the iron and steel industry in Australia it may be expected that the local production will increase, especially in articles of which the principal component is cast iron.

It is the opinion of hardware merchants that it is almost impossible to replace the British styles mentioned. Similar styles at competitive prices might find a market.

Iron cooking stoves are handled by the wholesale hardware houses. Gas stoves by the gas companies and by the hardware dealers.

PARCEL-POST CONVENTION WITH ARGENTINA.

The text of the parcel-post convention between the United States and the Argentine Republic, which went into effect October 15, has been printed by the United States Government with the 14 articles of the convention in Spanish and English in parallel columns. It is provided that exchanges of mail under this arrangement shall, until otherwise mutually agreed upon, be effected through the exchange post offices at New York on the part of the United States and at Buenos Aires on the part of Argentina, under such regulations relative to the details of the exchange as may be mutually determined to be essential to the security and expedition of the mails and the protection of the customs revenues.

Forms which are included in the publication give blanks for "certificates of mailing," to be received by the sender from the post office where the parcel is mailed, for customs declarations, and for the descriptive lists of packages sent in each dispatch of a parcel-post mail.

It is provided that the Postmaster General of the United States and the director general of posts and telegraphs of the Argentine Republic may, by agreement, except, on account of insecurity in the conveyance or for other causes, certain post offices in either country from receiving or dispatching parcels of merchandise.

STEEL MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA.

[New South Wales Industrial Gazette, September, 1915, transmitted by Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne.]

Up to the end of August the output of the steel works of the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. (Ltd.), at Port Waratah, was reported as 36,214 tons of pig iron, from which were produced 17,134 tons of billets and blooms, and 11,574 tons of rails. Existing contracts for steel rails included the following, for the Government: Federal, 47,000 tons; Victorian, 3,300 tons; New South Wales, 54,000 tons; and South Australia, 2,000 tons, making a total of 106,300 tons.

Some 400 tons of steel for shell making were being tested at the end of the month, and it was reported that orders had been placed for plant in extension of the works to increase their capacity from 125,000 to 170,000 tons of steel per annum. The projected additions include two open-hearth furnaces, with extension of the coke-making and other plant, and involve an estimated expenditure of £300,000 (\$1,460,000). A new company, viz, the Broken Hill Munitions Proprietary Co. (Ltd.), was reported to have been formed during August, with a capital of £100,000 (\$486,650), for the purpose of manufacturing high-explosive shells, etc., and a plant to the value of £20,000 (\$97,300) was reported to have been ordered from the United States.

FLOUR TRADE OF SWATOW.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Oct. 19.]

American flour, which comprised practically all the foreign flour imported into Swatow, arrives from Hongkong, while native flour, the product of the mills at Shanghai, comes direct from that port. The American flour is better in quality and color than is the native variety and has always been preferred locally, even if it is a little higher in price than the Shanghai article.

The highest point reached by the imports of the American variety was 20,194 tons in 1912, and the lowest point touched was 11 tons in the first half of 1915. The lowest point touched by the imports of native flour was 415 tons in 1911, and the highest point reached for six months was 7,293 tons in the first half of 1915.

Purchases of Native and Foreign Flour.

In 1908 the imports of American flour were 13,634 tons, while those of native flour were only 588 tons. As small as the amount of the latter was it was more than six times the amount imported in any previous year. The year 1909 witnessed a drop to 3,445 tons of American flour imported and a jump to 7,669 tons of native flour imported. This was mainly due to the very low exchange ruling throughout that year. The total amount of flour imported into China was the lowest figure since 1898, while the amount of native flour distributed coastwise from Shanghai during the year was twice the quantity so distributed in 1908.

Shanghai contributed 7,114 tons of flour in 1910, and the United States 5,084 tons. In 1911, 14,415 tons of American flour were imported, while only 415 tons of the native variety reached this market. The reasons for the decline of native flour imports were the shortage of native wheat on account of floods in the Yangtze River Valley and the low price of rice, for the China rice crop was excellent that year. American flour filled in the gap caused by the scarcity of native flour. Favorable exchange in 1912 pushed imports of American flour at Swatow to 20,194 tons, while only 733 tons of native flour were bought. In 1913 good rice crops caused imports of the American article to fall to 16,566 tons. Imports of native flour amounted to 817 tons.

During the last half of 1914 the price of American flour rose. The result was a further decrease to 14,446 tons in imports of American flour and an increase to 5,854 tons in arrivals of native flour during that year. During the first six months of 1915, only 11 tons of American flour were imported into Swatow, while imports of the native article amounted to 7,293 tons. The figures for the last half of 1915 will probably show a similar amount, if not more, of native flour imported and a total absence of arrivals of American flour.

Prices—Dealers.

Local Chinese dealers report that before the outbreak of the war, American flour was selling at \$2.47 to \$2.55, Mexican, per sack, according to grade, and there were no stocks of native flour held in Swatow. At present there are no stocks of American flour on hand and native flour is selling at prices ranging from \$2.56 to \$2.70, Mexican, per

sack, according to grade. The war has not only caused the disappearance of American flour from this market, but has increased the sale of native flour and has caused its price to rise above the price commanded by American flour before the war broke out. [The United States Treasury Circular, Values of Foreign Coins, gives the value of the Mexican dollar in China during the quarter ended July 1, 1914, as \$0.458 and during the quarter ended October 1, 1915, as \$0.3841.]

Twenty or more local Chinese firms and one foreign (Japanese) firm sell flour in this market. One month's credit is usually given to them by Hongkong and Shanghai merchants.

The present condition of affairs will probably exist until the war ends. Until that happens, it will be useless to expect American flour to regain its commanding position in this market.

[Two samples of Chinese (Shanghai mill) flour sold in the Swatow market may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.]

ACTIVITY OF AUSTRALIAN STEEL WORKS.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Oct. 27.]

Recent publications indicate that during the four weeks ended September 22, 1915, the Newcastle (New South Wales) iron and steel works produced 9,968 tons of pig iron, which is about the present capacity of the furnaces.

At the open-hearth furnaces 7,495 tons of ingot steel were produced. Australian bricks which have been used in some places in the roof were not satisfactory, and work was retarded while these unsuitable bricks were being replaced. The foundations for four additional open-hearth furnaces were commenced and an additional soaking pit to handle the increased output is being built.

A pig-iron mixer of 600 tons capacity has been ordered which will greatly facilitate the production of steel. The output of the open-hearth furnaces has been handled at the blooming mill and converted into billets for the market and blooms for the rail mill; 5,757 tons of blooms and billets of various sizes were produced.

The rail mill is working satisfactorily and up to the present has produced 13,665 tons of rails.

In order to meet the demand for lighter structural shapes and rails, an additional rail mill has been ordered from America, known as an 18-inch mill. This will relieve the large mill and leave it to handle only the heavier class of work.

The Newcastle steel mills were opened last July, and practically all the machinery for it was purchased in the United States.

Samples of dyeing materials produced in Ecuador, which were described in an article published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for October 18, 1915, have been received from Consul General Frederic W. Goding at Guayaquil, and may be inspected by interested persons at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 66634. The samples are of orchilla and achiote or annatto.

TECHNICAL PROGRESS IN RUSSIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

[Consul General John H. Snodgrass, Moscow.]

Returns have come in for the Russian sugar industry in connection with the inquiry conducted by the Journal of Finance. [The progress of other Russian industries was discussed in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 3, 1915.]

Being under the influence of two factors diametrically opposed to each other—the systematic increase in the cost of raw material and the systematic decrease in the maximum prices on one side and the fixed limits of production on the other—the sugar industry was obliged to introduce the greatest possible technical development. Nearly all replies received to the inquiry mention continuous improvement in the equipment of the factories, improved methods of production, careful control of the results obtained under varying conditions, strict economy in the consumption of fuel and working power, etc. It is stated that Russia takes the first place in the world in technical development. Attention is also called to the fact that certain improved methods of production owe their origin to Russian inventors, such as the new method of saturation of Kovalsky and Kosalovsky, the new method of continuous saturation of the Tros-tianetz factory, and the new method of working with three products according to the Bogatko system.

Unsatisfactory Conditions—Up-to-date Equipment.

On the other hand, there are unsatisfactory conditions to be noted. For instance, drying the residue, by which it is converted into valuable food for cattle, is practiced only in 9 of the 293 concerns. The prevailing method is to place the residue in ditches lined with stones, where it ferments and loses a considerable part of its properties. The reasons why the residue is not dried are the high cost of drying appliances, the comparatively low level of the agricultural and educational standards, and the scarcity of ways of communication. The last two reasons are the cause of another important defect in the Russian sugar industry—the comparatively low content of sugar in the beet and the unsatisfactory quantity of the crop.

The production of sugar requires careful and constant scientific observation, and this accounts for the comparatively high level of technical conditions in this industry. The machinery and apparatus used in this branch of industry are very costly, and require considerable time for their amortization. Nevertheless, all sugar factories have introduced up-to-date equipment, which proves that they were obliged to incur these expenses.

Technical Progress in Factory A.

The technical progress achieved in this industry is shown by the following instances:

Factory A has introduced new methods of continuous and automatic saturation, the working of the sirup with barite, a new method of working with three products, and payment for labor according to quantity, with a premium for extra labor. The same factory has introduced hydraulic transporters, lifts, automatic unloading of yellow sugar (silos for white sugar and mechanical transportation to

them, electric conveyance of bags, iron reservoirs for the residue instead of ditches lined with stones, mechanical lathes for the repair workshops, etc.

The further progress noted consists in the increase in the power of motors, increased pressure in the steam boilers, increased speed in the mechanism, the removal of the waste left in the filter presses by pumping, instead of in cars drawn by horses.

These improvements, made for the purpose of a more complete extraction of sugar, the improvement of its quality, and economy in energy required, have given the following results:

Items.	1908	1913
Consumption of beets per day:		
Per workman.....pounds.....	4,370	5,164
Per horsepower.....do.....	3,051	4,370
Total production of sugar during season.....short tons.....	20,681	15,117
Total quantity of beets consumed.....do.....	16,322	10,329
Consumption of fuel (coal and coke) per 100 pounds of sugar.....pounds.....	83	66
Wholesale prices of sugar:		
For domestic market.....per 100 pounds.....	\$5.53-6.02	\$5.60-\$5.76
For foreign markets.....do.....	4.46-4.63	5.35
Price of beets at factory.....do.....	0.21	0.24

The year 1913 was not wholly satisfactory, as a considerable quantity of beets could not be harvested on account of the early frost. The crop, consequently, was much below the average. Nevertheless, comparatively satisfactory results were obtained, owing to the technical progress in manufacture.

Improvements at Factory B.

Sugar Factory B, instead of 10 filter presses with a heating surface of 205 square feet, has erected 4 filter presses, each of which has 581 square feet of heating surface. For heating sirup a rapid-current rechauffeur has been installed. The refuse of filters is removed by means of a screw device instead of by carts, the sugar is dried and conveyed to storehouses by the pneumatic apparatus of Chanikovsky, and continuous saturation is effected by the system of Dombrovsky. There have been added two mechanical filters for the juice and the sirup, a new Fairburn steam boiler, etc. The results show the following figures:

Items.	1908	1913	Items.	1908	1913
Daily consumption of beets:			Consumption of fuel per 100 pounds of beets.....pounds..	8.55	7.04
Per workman.....pounds.....	3,936	4,839	Wholesale price of sugar at works, per 100 pounds.....	\$5.85	\$5.65
Per horsepower.....do.....	3,250	3,684			
Total.....short tons.....	628	693			
Total production of sugar.....do.....	6,594	6,662			

During the five years beets rose in price by 2 to 2.5 kopecks per pood (\$0.029 to \$0.036 per 100 pounds).

Progress at Factory C.

Still greater success is achieved when there is a sufficient quantity of beets and full-time work, as is shown by Factory C, the equipment of which did not stand on a very high level. This factory possesses 2 new vacuum apparatuses, 1 mixer, 1 new centrifugal apparatus, 2

reducing valves, and a number of minor improvements in the method of work. Its report of progress is as follows:

Items.	1908	1913	Items.	1908	1913
Daily consumption of beets:			Cost—Continued.		
Per workman.....pounds..	2,420	3,322	Total manufacturing ex-		
Per horsepower.....do.....	2,528	3,452	penses per 100 pounds of		
Total consumption of beets,			beets.....	\$0.372	\$0.361
short tons.....	19,928	40,408	Consumption of fuel per 100		
Cost:			pounds of beets:		
100 pounds of beets.....	\$0.183	\$0.224	Firewood.....pounds..	2.7	1.1
Labor on 100 pounds of beets..	.837	.719	Coal.....do.....	9.6	8.2

Factories D and E.

In technical progress, the sugar-refining works have not remained behind the sugar works. Here also is noted the tendency toward reequipment, economy in fuel and working power, with the same success. As an illustration there are given below some figures showing the operation of a sugar-producing and sugar-refining factory (factory D) and that of a sugar-refining factory (factory E). Factory D has erected three new water-pipe boilers and has introduced a device for softening the water and two heaters for the diffusion of juices. This firm has increased the number of Passburg drying devices, presses, and crushers of new construction. The following table shows the development of factory D:

Items.	1908	1913	Items.	1908	1913
Daily production of sugar:			Total consumption of fuel,		
Total.....short tons..	72	117	short tons.....	21,906	21,947
Per workman.....pounds..	263	294	Cost per 100 pounds:		
Total production of refined sugar,			Beets.....	\$0.22	\$0.24
short tons.....	20,800	32,100	Refined sugar (net).....	6.97	6.92

Factory E installed mixers of the Fourovich system for dissolving white and yellow sugar, drying apparatus of the Passburg system, economiser, superheater of the Bari system, etc. Its progress is shown by the following figures:

Items.	1908	1913
Daily average production of sugar:		
Per workman.....pounds..	200	235
Per horsepower.....do.....	181	175
Total production of refined sugar.....short tons..	18,059	31,546
Coal consumption per 100 pounds refined sugar.....pounds..	35	29
Price of refined sugar.....per 100 pounds..	\$7.63	\$7.13

The decrease in the price of refined sugar amounted to 6.5 per cent; at the same time the raw material increased in price very considerably. Labor prices increased by almost 50 per cent, fuel by 40 per cent, bags by 30 per cent, taxes by 135 per cent.

General Conclusions as to Conditions in Sugar Industry.

The above figures give a characteristic proof of the progress achieved and the situation of the industry. From the numerous communications received, the following general conclusion may be drawn. In view of the continuous increase of the prices of raw material and the constant reduction of the maximum sugar prices, the

sugar industry can base its existence only on its organization and the technical progress of manufacturing methods. But technical progress has its limits, which will soon be reached. Therefore it is necessary to devise radical measures that will give a sounder basis to the industry. The rise in the price of beets is due partly to the fact that some estates have passed to the hands of peasants who prefer raising cereals to planting beets and partly to the insufficient development of ways of communication and the difficulties encountered by manufacturers wishing to construct their own railways which would enable them to extend the territory of beet plantations. It is thought that the only way out of this situation would be a considerable increase in production, but under the present circumstances sugar is expensive, and the demand for it, though rising, remains at a comparatively low level.

Labor is required only during the season, and therefore a constant labor class can not be maintained. There is a scarcity of specialists also, as well as of educated and trustworthy workmen. For the sugar industry, as well as for the other industries, the Government believes it is necessary to establish special schools, and to raise the general educational standard of the population.

EXPORT OF RICE FROM JAPAN.

[Japan Gazette, Oct. 29.]

Hitherto Japanese rice has been largely shipped to the United States and Hawaii. This year the shipments to England have been considerable, partly because the price on the Japanese markets is unusually low and partly because the Japanese authorities have taken measures with a view to the export of the cereal. The shipments from Yokohama and Kobe during the first eight months of 1915 amounted to 1,213,701 piculs (1 picul=133½ pounds), valued at 7,446,028 yen (\$3,708,122). The figures, compared with the corresponding period of last year, showed an increase of 737,970 piculs in quantity and 4,294,679 yen (\$2,138,750) in value. During September the shipments from Kobe were 70,909 piculs, valued at 439,374 yen (\$218,808), while those from Yokohama were 1,050 piculs, valued at 7,765 yen (\$3,867). Kobe leads Yokohama in exports. The following table shows the shipments during the first eight months of the year:

Country.	Pounds.	Value.	Country.	Pounds.	Value.
Great Britain	49,521,600	\$1,106,272	Russia	355,733	\$9,658
United States	51,375,066	1,158,438	China	287,733	6,371
Canada	11,750,800	251,768	Kwantung Province	462,400	10,983
Australia	544,400	11,697	Other countries	16,720,000	363,824
Hawaii	34,152,400	788,066			

High Price for a Dutch Vessel.

Consul Frank W. Mahin reports from Amsterdam that the price paid for the steamer *Potsdam*, of the Holland-Amerika Line, which was sold recently to a Swedish steamship company, was more than the original cost of the vessel 15 years ago. The reported price is 4,500,000 crowns (\$1,206,000).

CHILE MAY ADD SUGAR RAISING TO ITS ACTIVITIES.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Oct. 19.]

Chile is not a producer of unrefined sugars, but for its supply is dependent, primarily, on Peru. The greater part of the imports of refined sugar has been received heretofore from Germany. The proportions of this trade held by the various countries in the last year before the war (1913), measured in metric tons of 2,204.62 pounds, were:

Countries.	Unrefined.	Refined.	White (Rosa Emilia).
	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>
Great Britain.....	84	48	.....
Germany.....	1,955	9,354	609
United States.....	118	2	.....
Ecuador.....	274	.....	.....
Panama.....	715	.....	.....
Peru.....	74,547	91	334
France.....	.....	50	.....
Belgium.....	.....	7	.....
Italy.....	.....	12	.....
Spain.....	.....	47	.....
Total.....	77,693	9,611	943

The importations in the first six months of 1915 have been: Refined sugar, 4,125 metric tons; white sugar, 68 tons; unrefined sugar, 38,590 tons. These statistics have not yet been divided as to countries of origin.

Changes in Import Duties on Sugar.

Under the law of October 19, 1914, No. 2622, the import duties on sugar were changed to read as follows: Impure sugar, 0.5 peso per 100 kilos (\$0.083 U. S. currency per 100 pounds); granulated sugar of first extraction, 1 peso per 100 kilos (\$0.165 U. S. currency per 100 pounds); refined sugar, 6 pesos per 100 kilos (\$0.99 U. S. currency per 100 pounds); white sugar (Rosa Emilia), 3 pesos per 100 kilos (\$0.496 U. S. currency per 100 pounds).

The retail market price of white granulated sugar in Valparaiso, just before the outbreak of the war, was, approximately, \$0.05 U. S. currency per pound. The September, 1915, price was, approximately, \$0.076 U. S. currency.

The high price at which sugar is ordinarily sold in Chile, and particularly the increased prices prevailing the past year, has given rise to considerable speculation as to whether it would not be possible and profitable to grow some form of sugar-producing plant in Chile. The Provinces of Tacna and Arica and Easter Island are said to contain large tracts of land capable of producing sugar cane equal to that grown in Peru. Recent experiments have demonstrated that the soil and climatic conditions at Llanquihue and Chiloe are favorable for the cultivation of sugar beets yielding 17 per cent and more of sugar. There is also a disposition to experiment with the extraction of sugar from Chilean corn, which is estimated as capable of producing up to 12 per cent of saccharine, which might be handled in the same manner as in the United States to prevent the conversion of the saccharine into glucose.

Sugar Industry Now Comprises Several Refineries.

These, however, are merely projects as yet. The sugar industry of the country at present consists of some 10 refineries.

One of the leading refineries, situated at Viña del Mar, has renewed its machinery during 1913-14 and now has a capacity of 125 tons of refined sugar per day. The company has its own railroad siding, rolling stock, and switch engines, and practically its own wharf and floating equipment. The warehouse capacity is 50,000 cases of sugar. Automatic dryers have been installed recently in the bag department, by which 2,000 bags can be handled per day. All of the machinery of the refinery is operated by electricity, generated by 8 motors of 1,308 kilowatts capacity. The company also supplies the public and private electric lighting current for the district in which its plant is situated.

Another refinery, situated at Penco, near Concepcion, has its own floating equipment, discharging wharves, etc., branch railway line and rolling stock; operates a box factory, and has constructed a large number of houses for its employees. The material for boxes is taken from the company's timber lands near Valdivia. The refinery is equipped with modern machinery and has a capacity of 100 tons of refined sugar per day.

[Lists of sugar importers and sugar refineries in Chile may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 68982.]

EXPORTS OF EGGS FROM EGYPT.

[Egyptian Gazette, Nov. 2; transmitted by Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria.]

In 1900, when the first customs returns of the Egyptian trade in eggs were made up, they showed exports of 13,232,000 eggs, valued at \$53,068. During 1914 exports amounted to 150,972,000 eggs, valued at \$1,119,377. Of the 1914 shipments, Great Britain (including possessions in the Mediterranean) took 118,487,000 eggs; France, 23,021,000; Austria-Hungary, 6,375,000; Spain, 1,260,000; Netherlands, 936,000; Tripoli, 465,000; Italy, 285,000; Greece, 143,000. The season for exporting eggs begins in November and continues until the end of the following April. Upper Egypt furnishes 70 per cent, Fayum and Middle Egypt 10 per cent, and Lower Egypt 20 per cent of the total supply. The general market for eggs in Egypt is Gabbari, Alexandria.

The average price of Egyptian eggs in the Alexandria market during the season 1913-14 was \$10.63 per 1,000; during last season the average price was \$9.14 per 1,000.

The cases in which eggs are exported are made in Egypt, but have occasionally been imported from Switzerland via Marseille. They measure 8 cubic feet and contain 1,440 eggs, which are packed with wood wool (fine wood shavings). The export duty on eggs is 1 per cent ad valorem, and marine insurance, including war risk, to England, is now 35 per cent. The freight to England for eggs in cases is \$12.17 per ton of 40 cubic feet (\$2.43 per case), and the freight to Marseille \$1.54.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Glassware, No. 19471.—A report from an American consular officer in South Africa states that a number of inquiries have been received for names of manufacturers of glassware for table and other household purposes. It is suggested that catalogues, prices, and full information be sent.

Paper and cardboard, No. 19472.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a business man in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of paper. The quality of paper and cardboard required is the same as used in the United States. Terms cash. Shipment should be f. o. b. Naples. Correspondence in Italian preferred.

Trusses, No. 19473.—A report from an American consular officer in France states that a merchant desires to obtain the exclusive agency for trusses in France, Switzerland, and Belgium. If required, inquirer is willing to buy on his own account, provided an exclusive-sales agreement is effected.

Household utensils, etc., No. 19474.—A company in Russia informs an American consular officer that it desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of household utensils, such as knives, forks, spoons, metal tea and coffee pots, washing and meat-cutting machines, sewing machines, typewriters, cameras, gramophones, and office supplies.

Soda-water bottles, No. 19475.—An American consular officer reports that a merchant in Bermuda wishes immediate quotations on 100 dozen soda-water bottles with glass stoppers and pressed caps. If possible, it is requested that samples be forwarded with quotations.

Theater chairs, paints, hardware, etc., No. 19476.—Managers of a new theater and coliseum in the Azores desire catalogues, prices, discounts, and other information regarding theater chairs, paints, hardware, and electric lighting fixtures to equip a theater with a seating capacity of 3,000. Prompt replies are requested, as the building is nearly completed. Correspondence may be in English.

Mica, No. 19477.—A report from an American consular officer in South Africa gives name and address of an owner of a mica mine who is desirous of corresponding with persons interested in financing such a proposition. The claims run east and west and are 4,500 feet by 600 feet. The five shafts are 6 feet by 4 feet inside of the timbers. It is stated that a large number of trenches are open exposing from 5 to 7 inches of mica.

Sweep pumps, No. 19478.—An American consular officer in Persia reports that an inquirer desires names and addresses of manufacturers of sweep pumps to be used in pumping water from subterranean aqueducts. The pumps should be capable of raising water from a depth of 90 feet to a height of 60 feet above ground. Terms, cash. Correspondence may be in English.

Tombstones and marble, No. 19479.—A firm in Italy informs an American consular officer that it desires to secure agencies for the sale of tombstones and other works in marble. Correspondence may be in English, French, or Italian. References furnished.

Hardware, No. 19480.—A young business man in Brazil desires to extend his business, and requests an American consular officer to place him in communication with manufacturers of hardware.

Small machine tools, No. 19481.—An American consular officer in France reports that a man in his district desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of small machine tools. Price lists should accompany catalogues. Correspondence should be in French, if possible.

Knitting machines, No. 19482.—A report from an American consular officer in South Africa states that he has a request for information concerning knitting machinery to be used in the manufacture of hosiery and underwear for women and children. Prices of hand and power knitting machines, capacity of each, approximate cost of operation, and all other information is requested. A cable code should be mentioned. If a satisfactory reply is received, the order will be cabled.

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FREE ADMISSION OF WHEAT IN SPAIN.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, Barcelona, received Dec. 7, 1915.]

Owing to the shortage in the wheat supply, the Spanish Government has authorized by royal decree the free admission of 200,000 metric tons of wheat, such shipments to be exempt from transportation tax as well as import duty. Furthermore, the Government is to advance funds to Spanish millers for the purchase of the above quantity of wheat.

[For previous notice regarding customs treatment of wheat in Spain see COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 8, 1915.]

EMBARGO ON LOGWOOD IN JAMAICA.

The State Department, Washington, is in receipt of information by cable to the effect that the exportation of logwood from Jamaica has been prohibited, except to the United Kingdom. [Further information on the subject has been requested and will appear in COMMERCE REPORTS when received.]

JAPANESE TOYS IN CANADA.

[Consul Thomas D. Bowman, Fernie, Dec. 2.]

Almost all of the toys purchased by Fernie dealers this year for the Christmas trade are of Japanese manufacture. Formerly German-made toys held the preference in this market. The Japanese manufacturers are now turning out imitations of the German products which sell even more cheaply than the German toys did.

Fernie does not offer a large market for toys, but Fernie dealers are dependent upon the available stocks of the Canadian jobbing houses.

American Packing Complimented.

A Chicago company making stapling wire has sent to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a letter received from one of its foreign customers in which special praise is bestowed upon the firm's method of packing its goods. The letter adds: "We find it difficult to impress upon some of our other American friends the necessity of special care in packing for export shipment."

OCTOBER EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, OILS, ETC.

The following statistics, compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, represent the exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils from the principal customs districts of the United States during October, 1914 and 1915, and 10 months ending October:

Items.	October.		Ten months ending October.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
EXPORTS BY GROUPS.				
Breadstuffs.....dollars..	38,247,570	36,515,107	204,216,478	446,925,888
pounds.....	16,400,991	20,103,674	150,404,506	302,775,646
Cottonseed oil.....dollars..	1,041,552	1,430,414	10,600,980	21,384,099
do.....	70,064	48,915	847,776	2,595,449
Cattle, hogs, and sheep.....do.....	11,778,391	18,532,316	102,296,376	307,794,759
Meat and dairy products.....do.....	497,132	675,279	4,357,354	7,276,280
Cotton.....bales.....	262,285,794	354,216,847	2,256,766,130	3,796,856,402
pounds.....	30,415,413	42,663,345	262,624,050	347,975,904
Mineral oils.....gallons.....	13,573,497	204,007,069	1,889,556,766	1,938,230,710
dollars.....	1,176,416	11,455,658	119,395,450	116,564,727
Total.....dollars..	83,701,401	110,615,275	699,998,920	1,145,240,826
EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
Corn.....bushels.....	1,034,614	1,019,421	8,403,635	41,320,065
dollars.....	853,812	723,742	6,578,230	33,569,620
Oats.....bushels.....	9,322,155	7,667,344	22,738,564	90,398,810
dollars.....	5,041,590	3,244,546	12,212,465	52,859,621
Wheat.....bushels.....	19,532,300	17,088,611	125,189,486	179,213,962
dollars.....	22,013,643	20,461,264	127,536,062	200,962,514
Flour.....bushels.....	1,347,907	1,263,834	9,321,794	12,448,746
dollars.....	6,752,567	6,818,374	44,340,742	78,418,245
Beef, canned.....pounds.....	8,954,136	2,800,835	16,061,470	63,937,461
dollars.....	1,361,400	463,115	2,878,159	9,976,630
Beef, fresh.....pounds.....	789,876	10,913,242	12,494,769	218,168,774
dollars.....	83,940	1,347,313	1,647,714	25,073,197
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds.....	1,080,307	2,602,612	18,407,761	37,634,638
dollars.....	110,981	264,287	1,815,025	4,075,104
Oleo oil.....pounds.....	4,898,673	10,777,719	74,349,059	87,183,468
dollars.....	540,635	1,147,478	7,656,880	10,358,393
Bacon.....pounds.....	13,586,618	51,562,613	143,313,752	470,471,068
dollars.....	1,966,007	6,939,417	19,801,423	55,683,943
Hams and shoulders.....pounds.....	8,418,282	19,246,735	119,135,714	227,050,740
dollars.....	1,307,959	2,733,019	17,318,115	31,561,018
Lard.....pounds.....	48,011,054	28,176,919	356,865,818	372,439,655
dollars.....	5,382,921	2,811,979	39,656,797	40,088,678
Neutral lard.....pounds.....	586,737	2,588,018	19,307,709	26,110,019
dollars.....	64,359	292,321	2,122,768	2,964,943
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds.....	1,943,911	7,896,417	32,200,386	56,147,992
dollars.....	29,344	816,014	3,543,393	5,895,161
Lard compounds.....pounds.....	5,870,957	3,783,919	43,997,188	53,581,080
dollars.....	526,294	351,155	4,066,100	4,590,758
Crude oil.....gallons.....	9,854,354	12,488,192	104,328,886	130,503,133
dollars.....	344,684	228,557	4,283,318	3,443,587
Illuminating oil.....gallons.....	80,578,260	70,532,792	865,617,277	714,436,902
dollars.....	5,140,915	3,910,944	55,899,709	42,385,934
Lubricating oil.....gallons.....	16,576,066	18,168,186	162,308,099	200,944,391
dollars.....	2,392,663	2,611,214	22,181,567	25,604,057
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons.....	22,260,703	18,113,614	172,265,067	225,172,878
dollars.....	2,386,380	2,315,852	21,249,236	26,062,073
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.....gallons.....	64,704,114	85,304,485	555,037,687	667,113,411
dollars.....	1,909,694	2,288,441	15,781,220	18,049,076

COLOMBIA PLANS NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

[Consul Isaac A. Manning, Barranquilla, Nov. 11.]

While also preparing for the construction of a railway connecting San Jose de Cucuta with the Magdalena River at Tamalameque, the Government of Colombia, by law No. 20 of 1915, has declared of urgent public utility the construction of a cart road from Cucuta via Ocana, corregimiento de los Angeles and Agua Chica to Gamarra (or Puerto Nacional) on the Magdalena, and with a branch leading to Loma de Corredor.

LATEST FOREIGN-MONEY DECREE IN CUBA.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris, supplementing reports published Dec. 2 and 7, 1915.]

The latest presidential decree in regard to the monetary situation in Cuba is dated November 24, and is substantially as follows:

1. From December 1, 1915, current accounts in Spanish and French gold will be closed and considered in a state of conversion, or liquidation, and new accounts will be opened in the legal currency (Cuban or American), returning the deposits in Spanish or French gold to those who so desire.

2. Until June 1, 1916, the Spanish and French gold coin will be legal tender for deposits or mercantile transactions made previous to December 1, 1915, at the rate of \$5.30 for each centen, and \$4.24 for each lous, or payment will be made in legal currency, gold, at the rate of \$4.82 for a centen or \$3.86 for a lous, at the option of the debtor. After June 1, 1916, the decree of September 11, 1915, will go into force.

3. It is agreed that the substitution of Spanish and French gold, which may be delivered by banking institutions through the Banco Nacional de Cuba in the form and name which may be arranged with same, may be effected at the rate of \$4.82 official currency for a centen and \$3.86 for a lous. To this effect the prohibition of imports of such foreign coin is effective and ratified.

4. The prohibition of the circulation of foreign silver and gold coins after December 1, 1915, is also ratified, with the exception of those of the United States. All pending transactions in Spanish silver will be payable in legal currency at the rate of the quotation of same on November 30.

5. This arrangement also extends to common-law obligations contracted on the specific basis of payment in Spanish or French gold coin.

BIG PRICE PAID FOR SHIP CHARTER, OREGON TO FRANCE.

The Pacific coast sales agent for several large shipbuilding and foundry companies reports to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that the new steamer *Pacific*, which was built in San Francisco, and which last month made a successful trial in San Francisco Bay, has been chartered by a prominent exporting firm in Portland, Oreg., at the record figure of \$31.50 per ton for delivery from either Portland or Puget Sound to France.

The *Pacific* is a 9,000-ton carrier, and will draw in freight charges for her trip from Portland to France \$283,500. The voyage will take 90 days by way of the Straits of Magellan, giving a gross income per day of \$3,150. The price is more than the vessel's owners asked originally. The steamship agents in San Francisco had offers from at least seven different exporting firms, the correspondent of the Bureau states, and this accounted for the increase in charges.

The conditions disclosed are cited by the sales agent as emphasizing the need of tonnage on the Pacific coast for shipments both to the Atlantic coast of the United States and to Europe.

Samples of large and medium canary seed which are to be found on the market at Seville, Spain, and which represent a class of products mentioned by Consul Gracey, at Seville, in COMMERCE REPORTS for October 30, 1915, as offering the possibility of export to the United States, have been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. They may be inspected by interested persons on application to the Bureau or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 67178.

CHARACTER OF IMPORTED RICE SHOWN.

To give those connected with the rice industry in the United States knowledge of the quantity, quality, and condition of the rice imported, the United States Department of Agriculture will shortly publish Bulletin 323—"Importance and character of the milled rice imported into the United States."

The bulletin points out that it has been necessary to augment the American crop, which is insufficient to supply domestic demands, by importing large quantities from abroad. As a result, the competition between home-grown rice and certain grades of foreign rice has become of importance to the rice-producing, milling, and handling interests of Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, South Carolina, and California. The bulletin gives statistics of the importation of uncleaned and completely milled rice for 1912, 1913, and 1914. These show that practically \$5,000,000 worth of rice was imported during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, an increase of 60 per cent over the importation of the year before and double the amount imported in 1912.

The bulletin then gives in detail a description of the rice types and the results of mechanical and chemical analyses of samples. The data from the mechanical tests cover weights of grains, percentage of damaged rice, the number of paddy grains, and the percentages of whole grains, half grains, and smaller pieces found in Japan, Chinese, Java, Siam, and Patna rice.

The bulletin is technical in character. It can be obtained free from the department as long as the supply for distribution lasts.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.	901 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Leves, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a) Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

POSITIONS FOR YOUNG PORTO RICANS SOUGHT.

The Chief of the Bureau of Labor of Porto Rico has suggested, in a communication to the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the possibility of employment of young Porto Ricans in the foreign trade of this country. He says that as American manufacturers are making special efforts to obtain markets for their goods in Spanish-American countries, there should be openings in those houses for young men with a thorough knowledge of both English and Spanish, and equipped by their training to render satisfactory service.

The Porto Rican Bureau of Labor has prepared a circular letter to be sent to interested merchants in the United States, and is seeking a list of the names and addresses of such merchants. The letter from the Chief of the Bureau of Labor is:

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO,
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, CHARITIES, AND CORRECTIONS,
BUREAU OF LABOR,
San Juan, November 8, 1915.

SIR: For the last two years the bureau of labor of Porto Rico has been conducting a free employment agency. Many applicants have been enrolled, among them persons qualified as stenographers, salesmen, translators, etc., who speak both English and Spanish. It is, however, extremely difficult to find positions for applicants of this class, due to the fact that Porto Rico is an agricultural country and that very few industries in need of men trained for clerical work exist on the island. This condition is becoming more and more pressing every year. The number of our industries offering work of this nature is increasing very slowly, while, on the other hand, our schools are graduating larger and larger numbers of young men trained in the excellent business courses provided.

In view of these facts the bureau of labor is anxious to get into communication with business houses in the United States having dealings with Central and South America in order, if possible, to obtain positions for these young men. It has seemed to us that, at the present time, when American manufacturers are making special efforts to obtain markets for their goods in Spanish-American countries, there should be openings in those houses for young men with a thorough knowledge of both English and Spanish and equipped by their training in our high schools and private schools of commerce to render very satisfactory services.

It is to be noted that these young men are, by their association here, familiar with the business courtesy and methods as well as with the personal characteristics prevailing in Spanish-American countries. Porto Rico is Spanish-American in these respects, and the qualifications of these young men should be of real help to American manufacturers in adapting themselves to the peculiar requirements of Spanish-American people.

To that effect we have prepared a circular letter to be sent to merchants in the United States, offering them the services of our free employment agency, but it having been impossible to obtain an efficient list of such merchants with their addresses, we depend on the courtesy of the Department of Commerce to obtain it, hereby respectfully requesting that you kindly have this bureau of labor furnished with such list as soon as you deem it convenient.

Thanking you in anticipation of your courteous attention, I remain, sir,
Most respectfully,

F. C. ROBERTS,
Chief Bureau of Labor.

RAILWAY SURVEY IN COLOMBIA.

[Consul Isaac A. Manning, Barranquilla, Nov. 8.]

The technical commission of engineers in charge of the preliminary survey of the route of the railway from Cucuta to the Magdalena River, in Colombia, have begun work on the line between Ocaña and Tamalameque. It is thought the survey will be finished by the end of July.

THE INDUSTRIES OF PEKING.

[Commercial Attaché Julean H. Arnold, Peking, China.]

While Peking is not a commercial city in the same sense as are the treaty ports of China, it nevertheless is an important consuming and distributing center. It has, moreover, numerous distinctive industries, and these were made the subject of a series of articles recently published in the Peking Daily News. The following interesting items are from that source:

Ice, Liquors, and Noodles.

Ice is a hot-weather necessity, although not in the same sense as food and clothing. In Peking, where the native restaurants reach their highest development, ice is consumed in enormous quantities. There is no artificial-ice plant; all ice is stored from the previous winter. The ice vaults are located near Ti-ar Men around the large pond known as Shih Sah Hai. The owners of these vaults almost monopolize the whole industry and have become wealthy in consequence. The ice is cut into cubes and stored in midwinter, the sale being opened in March. Most of the large restaurants and fresh-food wholesale houses contract for huge quantities each year, as it is the only way to avoid the high prices usually prevailing in midsummer.

There are in all 18 distilleries in Peking. They enjoyed prosperity until 1900, when the unfavorable money market forced nine of them to close. These nine are not disorganized; the other going concerns contribute enough to keep them in condition, so that whenever favorable circumstances return, they can easily be restarted. In spite of their efforts to control the trade, however, an influential independent merchant successfully started in business recently, and was the first one to contract for the sale of liquor after the establishment of the Government monopoly.

The great staple foods of China are rice for the south and wheat for the north. Peking is somewhat different from the rest of northern cities in respect of the proportion of southern residents. In spite of this fact, however, the great bulk of the native population still consumes large quantities of wheat in the form of bread and noodles, the latter being considered more of a delicacy. In former days noodles were all handmade, but the processes were not all that could be desired from a sanitary standpoint. Factories have now been established (of which Yang-Whei is the most prominent) for the manufacture of noodles on a large scale. The machinery used is, with the exception of a few modifications, similar to that for the manufacture of vermicelli. The noodles are graded into four classes according to the fineness of the threads. The higher the grade, the finer the thread. It is generally believed that the fineness aids both cooking and digestion. Another important improvement is the elimination of soda, which is declared to be detrimental to the human system by modern physicians. Noodles are put up in packages retailing at 10 cents Mexican [less than 4 cents U. S.] each and may be stored away for months without deteriorating.

Soap, Artificial Flowers, and Picture Mounting.

There are several native factories in Peking engaged in the manufacture of soap, each employing about a dozen men. Yu-Hua is one of the best known. They are not what may be called up-to-date factories and do not attempt to turn out high-grade products, using only raw material found in the local market. The fat is bought from the butcher shops, while the alkali is obtained from the Province of Hupoh. The method of marketing is also rather haphazard. Street runners are employed in place of regular sales agencies, and the goods reach the consumer through the many small stands and shops by the roadside. The soap is soft and very poor in quality, but its exceedingly low price gives it a fairly good market. A case containing 100 cakes is sold for only a little over \$1 (approximately 38 cents U.S.). Cheap price suits the Chinese common people very well, but it is to be hoped that the quality will be somewhat improved without materially affecting the cost of manufacture.

The artificial flower of Peking is noted for its excellent workmanship. It was at one time extensively used for personal adornment and household decoration. The fashion, however, has greatly changed, and very few ladies can be seen wearing such decorations nowadays. The trade, however, has found other

outlets; a good deal is exported to the vicinity of Kalgan, etc. It is hoped that a much bigger export trade can be built up in this way, as the article has intrinsic merits.

All those who are familiar with the Chinese paintings and scrolls of various kinds can not fail to note their peculiar and elaborate mountings. This work is all done by hand and requires no little skill, as well as a certain amount of artistic taste in the choice of colors, etc. This gives rise to a special industry, and Peking mounters enjoyed special prosperity on account of the large number of officials who had artistic hobbies. After the Boxer rising of 1900 the business showed a steady decline, and the years between the first and second revolution witnessed the lowest ebb for works of this nature. During the last couple of years, however, the mounting jobbers have been kept fairly busy, indicating an approaching revival of trade.

The Textile Industry.

The textile industry of Peking was started over a dozen years ago, the Fu-Wu Co. being the earliest establishment. It proved to be a very prosperous business and scores of manufacturers went in. None of them, however, had adequate capital to run their undertakings on a large scale, and the machinery employed is mostly of crude make. Consequently, the products are somewhat inferior to those of the Tientsin factories using modern steel machinery. There is also a difference in the coloring and dyeing processes, which makes the Peking products less attractive on the market. On the other hand, the factories have to pay a higher price for the yarns for buying in smaller lots. As a result of all these factors local products supply only a very small portion of the market demands. The Shu-Chuan Industrial factory is the only one that competes successfully with the imported stuff at present.

The Siang-Yung towel factory is one of the best examples of the recent attempts of the Peking Chinese at towel manufacture. The factory is situated in the Sing Fong Market, occupying 16 rooms. About 30 regular workmen are employed to attend to a set of wooden machines. The working hours are from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m., the workmen being allowed to take shifts. The daily production amounts to 30 or 40 dozen of assorted huckabacks and large bath towels. The selling price ranges from \$0.70 to \$2.40 (\$0.27 to \$0.91 U. S.) per dozen, according to the size and grade. The two cheap grades correspond very closely to the Japanese make in price, but excel the latter in quality, while the higher grades of bath towels are the only products of the kind found in the market here. The factory is under the able management of Mr. Meng, who has extended the sales as far as Kalgan and way into Shansi and Kansu. The demand has become very large and the number of smaller manufacturers has been constantly increasing.

The knit-goods industry is well adapted to the home and small establishments. A small machine can be had for as low as \$20 (\$7.60 U. S.) and skill in operation can easily be acquired. In Peking a number of poor families are already making this a means of living. Several manufacturers are also to be found employing from 30 to 50 workers.

TROUT PLANTING BY BUREAU OF FISHERIES.

A report from the supervisor of the Carson National Forest, in New Mexico, gives the results of various shipments of trout fry made to that forest by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. On August 6, 2,000 rainbow trout allotted for the Pueblo Lake were placed in South Fork Lake, as Pueblo Lake was not properly screened to prevent the fish leaving the lake. On August 15, 6 cans were planted in Vallecitos Creek, 4 in Upper Tusas Creek, and 3 in the canyon of Tusas Creek. On September 15, 12 cans of native trout were planted in Beaver Creek above the falls and 1 can in San Antone River near Ranger station. All of the plantings were a thorough success.

The Bureau is particularly interested in the stocking of the waters of the national forests, parks, and reservations. Much work along this line has been done and much more is in contemplation.

CUBAN MARKET FOR FANCY BISCUIT.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The United States has not yet been able to overcome the lead of the United Kingdom in Cuba's trade in fancy biscuit, cakes, and the like. In 1913, the last normal year, Cuba's imports of these articles, mainly tinned, totaled 564,283 pounds, valued at \$85,378; and of this amount the United Kingdom furnished 428,762 pounds, valued at \$68,848. The United States sent 91,739 pounds, valued at \$9,993; France shipped in 41,605 pounds of the value of \$5,947; and Belgium, Spain, and Germany furnished insignificant quantities.

In the calendar year 1914 the effect of the war on European trade was noticed, for the United States shipped in 108,155 pounds, valued at \$11,657, an increase of 16,416 pounds in quantity and \$1,664 in value. Belgium and Germany do not appear in the official import records, France fell to \$2,736, and receipts from the United Kingdom fell to 339,197 pounds, valued at \$53,995. The figures for 1915 will likely show a larger gain for the United States, although no difficulty is experienced in getting goods from England and there has been no curtailment of the regular terms given in the past. The English goods are handled through the Boston representative of the bakers, who also represents a celebrated English pickling and preserving house and who makes periodical trips to Cuba. Very little of the trade is handled through jobbers.

English Varieties in Favor.

It is a field that American bakers can very well afford to watch and cultivate, for with increasing prosperity in Cuba the demand for these fancy biscuit will undoubtedly grow. In common crackers, however, the United States leads, shipping in 1913 224,375 pounds, valued at \$14,807, to England's 1,610 pounds, of the value of \$126; and in 1914, 242,199 pounds, valued at \$15,471, to England's 2,035 pounds, valued at \$259. The Cuban duty is \$1.56 per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) on common crackers, and \$3.64 per 100 kilos on the fine or fancy biscuit imported from the United States, which are admitted at a reduction of 20 per cent of the general rates.

The English goods are usually in 1-pound tins, hermetically sealed, and in an attractive package. Sales are made in nearly every instance direct to retailers, and only a very small portion is jobbed. The number of grocers carrying fancy biscuit is large, and the wide distribution of the goods in the small corner "tiendas" is somewhat remarkable. The English goods are sold as a rule on 90 days' time. The almost invariable American terms are 30 days from date of invoice. This amounts practically to cash, as it takes some time for the goods to arrive and be passed through the customs. Some instances have been known where the American manufacturers have given as long as 60 days, but these are exceptional and the 30-day rule is the standard. Dealers state that if terms equal to the English were given there would be an incentive to push the American goods, but as it is their interest lies manifestly in the direction of the manufacturers extending the longest credits.

Grocers report that the English 1-pound tins of "sponge rusk" retailing at 40 to 45 cents is the prime favorite. Dealers with a preponderating native trade give the following English brands, in

1-pound tins, as having the largest sale (the figures represent retail prices in cents per pound): Dinner biscuit, 40; sponge rusk, 40; Italian macaroons, 75; breakfast biscuit, 40; cream crackers, 40; "ice creams," two flavors—vanilla 40, chocolate 60; puff sandwich, lemon flavor, 40; arrowroot crackers, 40; combination, 40; rich mixed, 40; Petit Buerre, 40; Royal Sovereign (filled with apricot jam), 50; Coronation, 40; milk, 40.

American Products—Local Factories.

The gingersnaps, vanilla wafers, etc., from the United States, put up in the pasteboard cartons protected by an alleged air-tight covering of waxed paper, are declared to be unsatisfactory. It is claimed that air and moisture in some way penetrate, and in two to three weeks after the goods are put on the shelves they begin to deteriorate, taking on a musty smell and taste and losing their crispness and freshness.

There is practically only one brand of American fancy biscuit on the market. Some of the goods of this concern are packed in 1-pound tins and some of the fancier confections in small tins that retail as low as 15 cents. The biscuit packed in tins are declared by grocers to be in every way the equal of the English product and thoroughly satisfactory and the exterior of the American packages is decidedly more attractive than that of the British. The consensus of opinion appears to be that if more liberal terms were granted there would be an immediate large increase in importations of the American goods and they would take a rapid start toward a more widespread popular favor.

There are two factories in Habana making fancy biscuit, that of Vilaplana B. Calvo being the largest. It is equipped with modern machinery and appliances in every way and turns out a remarkably fine product, which is in great favor locally. The output is shipped all over the island of Cuba, and some exportations are made to South America. Chocolate of a superior quality is made in all forms, the raw material coming mainly from Venezuela. The other factory is that of Maestro y Martinique. It turns out fancy biscuit, cakes, and the like. manufactures some chocolate, and also makes a specialty of guava jelly and pastes of native fruit.

INDIAN POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

[Indian Trade Journal, Oct. 22.]

The following is a summary of the annual report on the posts and telegraphs of India for 1914–15 just issued:

During the year the enormous total of 1,000,000,000 articles were dispatched by post, including 24,000,000 registered articles. Stamps to the value of nearly \$9,733,000 were sold for postal purposes. Thirty million money orders of the total value of \$180,000,000 were issued. Three million insured articles, valued at \$238,500,000, were handled. Twenty-one thousand pounds of quinine were sold to the public. Savings banks accounts totaled \$48,664,000. The post office also realized for the Government \$243,345,000 of customs duty and paid pensions to Indian soldiers amounting to \$1,217,000. During the same period 16,000,000 telegrams were transmitted and the telegraph system was extended by 2,000 miles.

THE RAILWAY TO THE MURMAN COAST OF RUSSIA.

[London Times Russian Supplement, Oct. 30.]

Take the map of the north of European Russia and you will see almost in the very middle only a black strip timidly making its way from the center to the shores of the White Sea. It is the narrow-gauge Vologda-Archangel Railway, built in 1897-98. Somewhat to the right-hand side of it stands out from the Ural Railway system another line resting almost upon the very point of the bend of the northern Dvina at the hamlet Kotlas. This is the Perm-Kotlas Railway, designed to convey freight from the Urals to Archangel.

Such are the two routes, if we do not reckon the River Sukhopa and the northern Dvina, navigable five months in the year, which, up to now, have united the northern region of Russia with the center of the Empire and serve as channels of culture and well-being. But apparently they have hitherto conscientiously fulfilled the task imposed upon them, since, had there not been the present war, the question of a new route to the north and concern for the greater freight-carrying capacity of the already existing routes would not have been so swiftly decided in the affirmative. But the war has completely changed the customary physiognomy of the Russian north; Archangel has again been transformed, after many decades, into a "window of Europe," and inasmuch as this window proved not sufficiently wide, the old project of constructing a railway to the Far North has come to the fore.

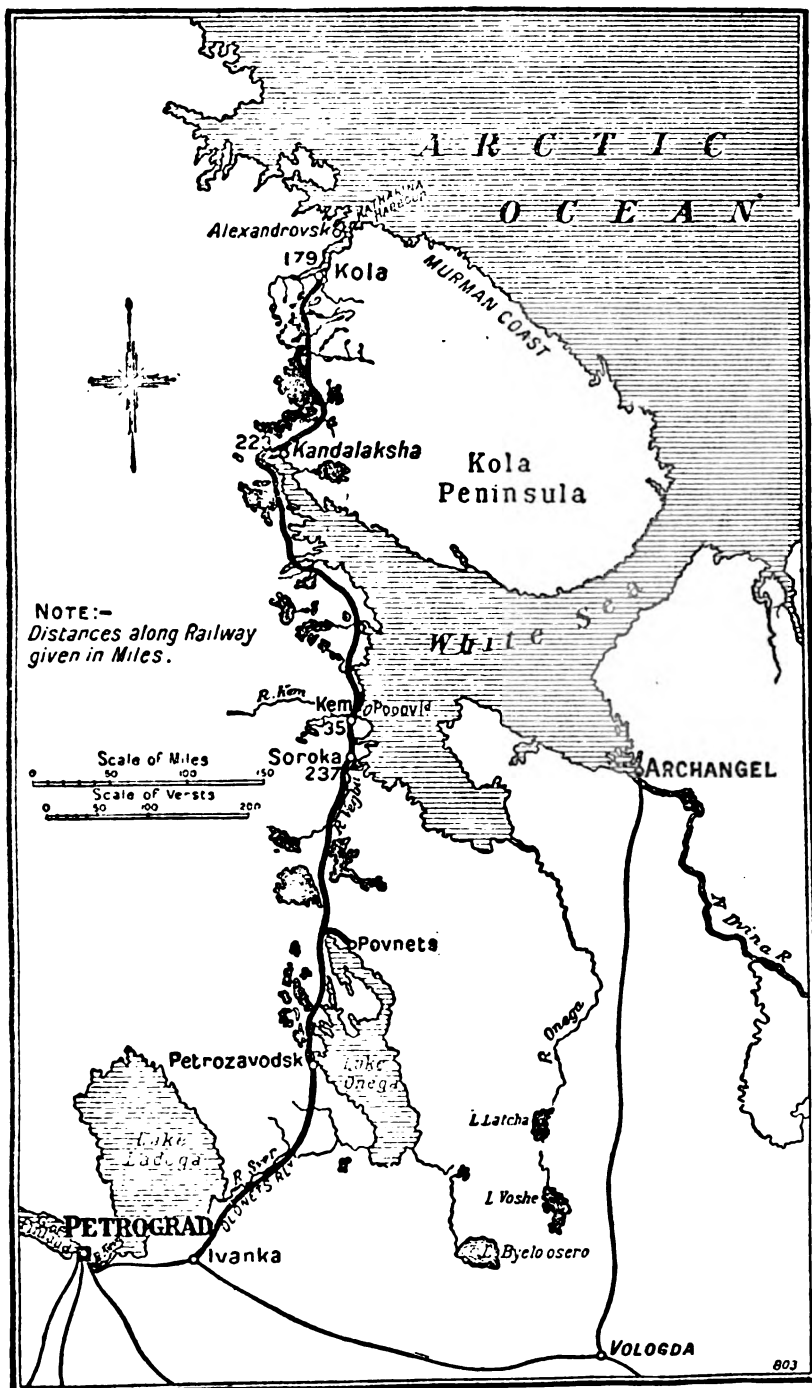
Towns of the Russian Far North.

Amid the swamps and virgin forests, on the other side of the Arctic Circle, immersed for 6 months of the year in absolute darkness, lies a small gulf. It is called Catherine Harbor. It is almost on the frontiers of Norway. But the waters of the bay never freeze; such is the beneficent influence of the Gulf Stream.

It was on this small point formed by Catherine Harbor that the gaze of Russian engineers was bent when it was required to find a northern outlet to the open sea. They had heard about this outlet long before, since 16 years ago Russia appreciated the worth and distinction of this distant region, and as far back as 1899, somewhat north of the small town of Kola, a fairly large settlement of "Pomors," as the local fishermen and hunters are called, founded the new commercial town of Alexandrovsk. But in several years, interest in this region cooled, and the idea of uniting it by rail with the remaining part of the Empire was abandoned. Alexandrovsk, having no chance to develop, declined, and soon became an even less important point than the neighboring Kola, a settlement of fishermen and fur hunters. In 1910, Alexandrovsk numbered 384 inhabitants.

Course of the New Railway.

Petrozavodsk, on Lake Onega, the capital of the Government of Olonets, was marked out as the objective of a new railway from the south to the north, and thither from the direction of Petrograd is now advancing a new railway (the Olonets Railway), the construction of which will be completed by the end of the year. From Petrozavodsk the rails are being laid direct northward, at first to the northern terminus of Lake Onega, then between two big lakes. It



Map showing the railway now being constructed from Petrograd to Kola.

reaches the shores of the White Sea at Soroka Bay (237 miles from Petrozavodsk), and, swerving a little to the northwest, reaches the most important administrative and industrial center of all this district, the town of Kem (35 miles north of Soroka), in the midst of Onega Bay, or, as it is there called, Lip (Guba). Here ends the first section of the new railway. The second is being laid between an entire archipelago of small lakes, amid swamps, marshes, and virgin fir forests, to Kandalaksha (223 miles from Kem), a big settlement of fishermen situated between the sea and the extensive Lake Imandra, along both banks of the swiftly flowing Neva.

From Kandalaksha the new route has to intersect the spacious Kola Peninsula, the northern shore of which, called the Murman coast, is on the Arctic Ocean. This is the third section, and because the new railway must touch the Murman coast at the small town of Kola (179 miles from Kandalaksha) it is called the Murman Railway.

The town of Kola is for the time being the terminal point of the new railway. The ice-free character of Catherine Harbor, in the depths of which it is situated, and the ample depth at this spot of both the bay itself and the mouth of the Kola River, afford an opportunity of converting this remote point into a spacious emporium whither will hereafter be dispatched the bulk of freight intended for central Russia, which the Archangel Railway is not able to carry with sufficient rapidity.

Character of the Country—Inhabitants.

The Kola Peninsula is entirely desert except for the coastal strip and two or three postal tracks. It contains enormous fir forests, swamps, sandy ridges, and granite cliffs and rocks of colossal dimensions. Settlers state that there are incalculable riches in deposits of petroleum, coal, copper, tin, iron, and other metals, but they live poorly, sheltered in wretched huts, for in the bush agriculture brings nothing and the sole earnings come from cutting and rafting lumber. Even hunting (the squirrel, marten, fox, ermine, bear, etc.) yields little, in the absence of markets and means of communication.

Considerably more affluent are the maritime inhabitants, who engage chiefly in fishing for codfish and turbot along the Murman coast from the Norwegian frontier to St. Nicholas Cape, and in bays of the White Sea (Onega and Kandalaksha) catch a great many salmon and herring. There also the inhabitants engage in sea hunting, so that in general, notwithstanding that both fishing and sea hunting are primitively organized and the hunters badly equipped, the coast dwellers not only make ends meet, but put by for the winter several hundreds, and sometimes even thousands, of rubles. But living in these remote localities is not cheap, inasmuch as, with the exception of fish and game, everything is brought from Norway or from central Russia, chiefly in summer. It may be added that the coast dwellers and their wives, these distant descendants of the ancient Novgorodians who colonized this region, love to live on a fairly large scale and do not stint themselves for pleasure. In many houses of the coast dwellers are phonographs, and in their villages, cinematographs. Nor do they stint themselves on dress. The wives of the coast dwellers even now wear silk sarafans (a kind of national dress) and small headdresses embroidered with gold and silver, and always covered with silk kerchiefs.

Such is the locality that the building of the Murman Railway is to animate; such are the conditions in which people live there, conditions that the railway will revolutionize.

Difficulties of Construction.

There have been endless difficulties in building the railroad—difficulties of a purely external character, which neither human knowledge nor energy could subdue. Thus, when they began to lay the rails in several sections the men abandoned work because they were literally eaten alive by mosquitoes, and especially midges (mosh-ka). These midges infested the region in clouds and interfered with work day and night. In another part of the selected route a firm roadbed could not be found earlier than the end of June; everything was flooded with water. In several sections of 200 versts (133 miles) more than half of the road had to be built on piles; cofferdams had to be lowered and filled with earth. Water would ooze somewhere, permeate the perpetually vibrating and porous ground, and several days afterwards would come to the surface in an entirely different place, and everything would have to be done over again. But no less difficulty was offered by the granite cliffs and rocks encountered on the way, among which grew gigantic trees.

Surmounting difficulties of this kind, engineers and laborers, up to their knees in water or floundering in sand, in the liquid mud of the swamps, stumbling over rocks, stones, and the huge roots and trunks of dead giant trees, are slowly laying from both directions, north and south, the road that will at last give Russia an outlet to the open sea.

[The development of Kola and the building of the railway have been discussed in COMMERCE REPORTS in connection with the following articles: "Existing and proposed Russian Arctic ports," Mar. 19, 1915; "Rapid progress of the port of Archangel," Oct. 18, 1915; "Further improvements at Archangel," Nov. 1, 1915.]

AMERICAN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The imports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended November 27, 1915, were as follows: Ore matte and regulus (copper contents), 3,280,789 pounds, valued at \$378,566, of which Peru furnished 2,842,540 pounds, valued at \$323,943; pigs, ingots, etc., 1,649,210 pounds, valued at \$287,015.

The exports of copper in pigs, bars, etc., from the customs districts named during the week amounted to 6,370,971 pounds, valued at \$1,168,633. The principal countries of destination follow:

Countries.	Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.		Countries.	Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.	
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>			<i>Pounds.</i>	
France.....	3,547,331	\$642,394	Brazil.....	48,155	\$11,407
Italy.....	463,304	84,740	Chile.....	26,555	4,700
Netherlands.....	191,009	42,820	Peru.....	12,022	1,896
Norway.....	116,818	22,802	Dutch East Indies.....	13,711	11,516
Portugal.....	14,414	3,263	British Africa.....	21,908	3,880
Russia.....	1,120,459	202,282	All other countries.....	23,832	5,419
Spain.....	45,145	8,423			
England.....	668,226	121,402	Total.....	6,370,971	1,168,633
Canada.....	8,072	1,689			

PRELIMINARY TRADE FIGURES FOR CANADA.

[Consul General William H. Bradley, Montreal, Nov. 19.]

The following figures, published in the Montreal Journal of Commerce, show the trade of Canada during September and during the 12 months ended September 30 for the last 3 years:

Items.	September—			Year ended September—		
	1913	1914	1915	1913	1914	1915
IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION.						
Dutiable goods.....	\$37,997,562	\$22,575,997	\$22,279,886	\$453,580,567	\$341,656,238	\$245,488,436
Free goods.....	16,342,995	13,901,575	15,746,834	229,396,748	190,197,251	171,783,767
Total imports, merchandise.....	54,340,557	36,567,572	38,026,720	682,977,315	531,853,489	417,272,203
Coin and bullion.....	204,762	15,885,221	597,378	5,315,142	41,318,627	107,185,428
Total imports.....	54,545,319	52,452,793	38,624,098	688,292,457	573,172,116	524,457,631
Duty collected.....	9,906,183	6,016,606	7,904,995	117,632,669	91,438,405	80,744,433
EXPORTS.						
Canadian produce:						
The mine.....	6,402,080	5,120,246	5,600,416	58,642,651	57,174,939	55,428,149
The fisheries.....	1,841,166	1,987,669	2,750,313	18,382,137	19,964,899	21,362,398
The forests.....	5,347,458	4,945,471	6,527,625	44,036,986	42,191,112	47,241,070
Animal produce.....	6,540,720	7,063,312	10,188,424	44,911,905	62,034,576	86,197,377
Agricultural produce.....	11,829,772	7,478,798	11,139,935	165,372,585	179,110,844	136,573,766
Manufactures.....	5,041,465	5,188,314	9,244,974	50,280,990	63,355,893	125,099,041
Miscellaneous.....	5,884	12,803	678,048	115,207	224,830	3,035,284
Total Canadian produce.....	37,048,545	31,796,613	46,129,735	381,732,461	424,057,093	474,937,085
Foreign produce.....	3,823,411	8,747,481	7,586,147	26,841,724	44,152,917	43,045,155
Total exports, merchandise.....	40,871,956	40,544,094	53,715,882	408,574,185	468,210,010	517,982,240
Coin and bullion.....	248,023	354,451	144,282	17,130,611	20,212,147	94,628,533
Total exports.....	41,119,979	40,898,545	53,860,164	425,704,796	488,422,157	612,610,773
AGGREGATE TRADE.						
Merchandise.....	95,212,513	77,111,666	91,742,603	1,091,551,500	1,000,063,499	935,254,443
Coin and bullion.....	452,785	16,239,672	741,660	22,445,733	61,530,774	101,813,961
Total trade.....	95,665,298	93,351,338	92,484,262	1,113,997,233	1,061,594,273	1,137,068,404

RUSSIAN CREDIT INSTITUTIONS.

[London Times Russian Supplement, Oct. 30.]

The following table shows the position of various kinds of credit institutions in Russia:

Items.	Credit associations.	Loan and savings associations.	Zemstvo banks.	Other.	Total.
Total number of institutions.	11,271	4,011	237	4,932	20,451
Number of institutions reporting.....	10,793	3,309	232	4,724	19,058
Date of reports.....	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 1, 1914	Jan. 1, 1915	.....
Resources:					
Belonging to institutions.....	\$28,044,000	\$31,231,000	\$22,477,000	\$7,800,000	\$89,642,000
Local sources.....	139,686,000	92,045,000	32,604,000	33,201,000	297,536,000
State sources.....	53,041,000	11,816,000	1,263,000	3,558,000	69,678,000
Distribution of resources:					
Loans.....	178,071,000	108,911,000	51,777,000	33,154,000	371,913,000
Cash.....	24,886,000	17,183,000	1,930,000	8,404,000	52,403,000
Other assets.....	18,114,000	9,017,000	2,635,000	3,095,000	32,861,000

* Also sums in credit institutions and securities.

REPORT ON AMERICAN COTTON GINNING.

According to preliminary report prepared by the United States Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, the number of bales (counting round as half bales and excluding linters) of cotton ginned from the growth of 1915 prior to December 1, 1915, and comparative statistics to the corresponding date in 1914 and 1913; crops of 1914 and 1913; and the per cent of the crop of each year ginned prior to December 1, follow:

State.	Ginned prior to Dec. 1—			Crop.		Per cent of crop ginned prior to Dec. 1—	
	1915	1914	1913	1914	1913	1914	1913
United States.....	9,711,453	17,073,386	12,088,412	15,905,840	13,982,811	82.2	86.5
Alabama.....	940,045	1,431,556	1,365,244	1,731,751	1,483,669	83.1	82.0
Arkansas.....	657,304	840,235	789,137	999,237	1,038,253	84.1	76.1
Florida.....	50,300	72,962	58,485	90,048	66,700	80.5	87.7
Georgia.....	1,768,346	2,285,024	2,066,199	2,723,034	2,346,237	83.9	88.1
Louisiana.....	319,849	382,013	342,383	452,261	431,865	84.5	78.4
Mississippi.....	802,010	987,031	957,808	1,217,883	1,251,841	81.0	76.4
North Carolina.....	612,117	674,340	652,339	970,479	837,995	69.5	74.3
Oklahoma.....	445,680	1,018,746	764,295	1,232,638	842,499	82.7	90.7
South Carolina.....	1,032,435	1,230,168	1,160,725	1,560,195	1,418,704	78.8	81.8
Tennessee.....	238,824	291,183	304,467	372,068	366,786	78.3	83.0
Texas.....	2,777,581	3,746,578	3,572,105	4,390,200	3,773,024	85.3	94.7
All other.....	69,011	104,460	86,483	165,386	120,198	63.2	72.0

The statistics in this report include 93,361 round bales for 1915, 39,682 bales for 1914, and 86,878 for 1913. The number of sea-island bales included is 77,161 for 1915, 63,024 for 1914, and 61,049 for 1913. The distribution of the sea-island cotton for 1915, by States, is: Florida, 24,910; Georgia, 48,877; and South Carolina, 3,374.

The statistics of this report for 1915 are subject to slight corrections when checked against the individual returns of the ginnerers being transmitted by mail. The corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to November 14 are 8,774,336 bales.

MEXICAN HYDROELECTRIC PLANT COMPLETED.

[Consul Marlon Letcher, Chihuahua, Nov. 18.]

The power plant of the Cia. Agricola y de Fuerza Eléctrica at La Boquilla, near Santa Rosalia, Chihuahua, has now been completed and the current made available for use at Parral in the operation of the cyanide ore treatment plant of a mining company. The current was turned on through the transformer station at Parral on September 28. At present only 1,000 horsepower is being used.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Telephone apparatus, No. 19483.—A new telephone company is being formed in South America, and it is suggested that manufacturers of telephone apparatus suitable for long-distance work might be interested. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Accordions, No. 19484.—An American consular officer in Madagascar reports that a merchant desires quotations on cheap grades of accordions. Correspondence should be in French and prices quoted c. i. f. port of destination.

Chemicals, No. 19485.—A letter to the Bureau from a commercial agent states that a man in Norway desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of chemicals.

Hosiery, No. 19486.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a man in Chile wishes to receive catalogues, including prices and discounts, on cotton hosiery for women. He proposes to buy as a starter from 500 to 1,000 dozen for cash.

Velvets and lastings, No. 19487.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a company desires quotations from manufacturers of velvets and lastings. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

Silk goods, etc., No. 19488.—A company in Italy informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of silk, silk and cotton, and cotton goods used in the manufacture of wearing apparel for women and children.

Machinery, No. 19489.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase a motor-driven corset eyeletting machine. The machine must be capable of taking a corset 20 inches long, and should have a ready adjustment for corsets of lesser lengths. Prices, discounts, terms, and packing charges should be stated.

Railway supplies, No. 19490.—A report from an American consular officer in South Africa states that a Government official is interested in obtaining catalogues and full information relating to railway cars and locomotives. Freight as well as passenger cars are wanted, the former to have from 10 to 12 tons capacity and to be open and closed for use as cattle cars. The passenger coaches to be of three different kinds, for first, second, and third class passengers. Correspondence should be in French.

Electric-driven engines, No. 19491.—A company in India informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of small engines capable of being driven by electricity. The engines to be of simple construction and capable of developing 5 horsepower.

Electric fixtures, No. 19492.—A report from an American consular officer in Russia states that inquiries have been received for names and addresses of manufacturers of electric fixtures and appliances of all kinds, such as buttons, switches, fuses, lamp holders, and electric meters. Catalogues, samples, and conditions of sale are requested. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Russian ports in Russian equivalents.

Crewel needles, crochet hooks, etc., No. 19493.—A manager of an art needlework store in Nova Scotia desires to correspond with manufacturers of crewel needles, crochet hooks, steel knitting needles, and ordinary sewing needles. Duty on needles imported from the United States is 30 per cent plus the war tariff of 7½ per cent.

Ship chandler, No. 19494.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a ship chandler, speaking English and Portuguese, offers his services to American vessels touching Brazilian ports.

Violet dye, No. 19495.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a man in Ecuador desires to know if there is a market in this country for "orchilla," a plant from which archil is obtained and from which a violet dye is produced.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 289 Washington, D. C., Friday, December 10 1915

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SWEDEN PROHIBITS SALE OF VESSELS.

[Cablegram from American consulate general at Christiania, Dec. 6.]

The Swedish Government has prohibited the sale of Norwegian vessels to any foreign country. Law may be waived in special cases.

COTTON TRADE OF HAVRE.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, France, Nov. 10.]

From August 1 to November 5 there were imported into Havre 133,300 bales of American cotton, 3,036 bales of Indian, and 6,096 bales of other kinds, a total of 142,432 bales. During the same period deliveries amounted to 182,310 bales, consisting of 169,053 bales of American cotton, 9,070 bales of Indian, and 4,187 bales of other kinds. On November 4 cotton stocks in Havre totaled 226,157 bales, 190,625 bales of which were American, 28,596 bales Indian, and 6,936 bales miscellaneous cotton.

ELECTRICAL PLANT FOR STATION IN MANCHURIA.

[Consul Charles K. Moser, Harbin, China, Nov. 4.]

The Novosti Zhizni of October 21 states that a British firm has made arrangements for establishing an electrical plant at Station Handaohedzu, on the line of the Chinese Eastern Railway, about 170 miles east of Harbin. It is stated that the capacity of the plant will be sufficient to provide several thousand subscribers with electricity and to light the streets of the village. It is thought that the plant will begin furnishing power within a few weeks.

Government Regulation of Swiss Milk Supply.

In order to insure a sufficient domestic supply of milk at moderate prices the Swiss Department of Public Economy has been authorized by the Federal Council to place the manufacturers of milk products in that Republic under the obligation of reserving a certain quantity of milk for Swiss consumption. The department referred to also intends, reports Vice Consul Reginald H. Williams, of St. Gall, to examine into the advisability of fixing a maximum price for butter.

ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AMONG OYSTER DREDGERS.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has made public a report from A. Lincoln Dryden, commanding the motor boat *Dixie*, of the United States Bureau of Navigation, on the enforcement of law among oyster dredgers. The report is:

In compliance with the Bureau request, I beg to report concerning the recent operations of the *Dixie* among the "oyster dredgers" of Maryland and Virginia, in Chesapeake Bay and tributaries. On November 24 the *Dixie* arrived in the Potomac River, having come from Norfolk and vicinity, where she has been cruising for several weeks among the "oyster tonging" and fishing craft of that section. The United States commissioner at Baltimore had requested that the schooners *Sydney R. Riggins* and *Catherine E. Shores*, documented at Crisfield, be apprehended and that their masters be cited before him for hearings in connection with wages alleged to be due and unpaid to certain seamen.

All efforts to locate said vessels in the Potomac were unavailing, and on Monday, the 29th, the *Dixie* sailed for Honga River and Hooper Island on the eastern shore of Maryland. It was ascertained that the vessels sought by us were not in this section, but were dredging for oysters in the Choptank River, between Black Walnut Cove and Cambridge. Before leaving Hooper Island, I learned from the clerk of the court at Cambridge, over the telephone, the numbers of the county dredging licenses which had been issued to the vessels in question, the said numbers being required by law to be shown on the sails when under way. Accordingly, on the 30th ultimo, after waiting a half day for the prevailing high winds to moderate, the *Dixie* proceeded to the Choptank River and anchored in the Black Walnut Cove for the night. As the oyster boats came to harbor at sunset, the numbers observed on the sails of the schooner *Sydney R. Riggins* at once disclosed her. When she had come to anchor I boarded her and took up with her master and managing owner, Capt. Ira Todd, Hollands Island, Md., the complaint made by a former seaman on his vessel.

When Capt. Todd was informed that he must appear before the United States commissioner at Baltimore or pay the amount alleged to be due, \$15.75, as authorized by the said commissioner, he demanded time for consideration, but finally came on board the *Dixie* and made settlement. On the same evening all of the ship crew of this vessel left her, alleging unsuitable food, the master making no protest or attempt to detain them, after conferring with me about the matter. My action in this case has been reported and the money paid to the United States marshal, Baltimore.

Failing to locate the schooner *Catherine E. Shores* near the mouth of the Choptank River, and learning that she was dredging for oysters farther up the same river, the *Dixie* proceeded in that direction, passing more than 150 vessels, close at hand, and reaching Cambridge about noon. Information was gathered here that the said schooner was likely to be in harbor at Oxford, Md., for the night. Accordingly, the *Dixie* proceeded to Oxford, about sunset, and cast anchor within a few hundred feet of the *Catherine E. Shores*, and service was made as directed by the United States marshal at Baltimore. In this case the master appeared in Baltimore to answer the complaint of seaman John Keefe, who alleged wages to be due and unpaid him, and that he was induced to go on board the said schooner while under the influence of liquor. This case, I have learned, has been postponed under bond for a short time.

In this connection, I may say also that the cook on board the schooner *Catherine E. Shores* seemed to be in great fear of the master, Joseph Lewis, Hooper Island, lest harm should be done him by the said master. He almost prayed to be taken off the said schooner. This situation was taken up with the master, Capt. Lewis, and he was told plainly that if he had acted or threatened, as had been alleged, he should not attempt to detain his cook on board, and that under the circumstances the right of the complainant to go ashore seemed reasonable, and that we would enforce this right. Capt. Lewis quickly assented to our proposition and paid the man the wages due him to that date, when we took him on board the *Dixie* and landed him in Annapolis in the afternoon of Friday, 3d instant, when he took the train for his home in New Jersey.

From November 24th until the 3d instant, the *Dixie* was busy as above indicated; her visits to many harbors and her appearance among the "oyster fleet," in different sections, have served to put on notice the master of dredging vessels as to the firm purpose of the Department of Commerce to enforce the law intended for the protection of seamen.

NEW LINE TO WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Peru, Nov. 11.]

A letter received from the general manager of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., at Callao, Peru, states that the directors of that company have decided to establish a service of rapid steamers between New York and the West Coast ports of South America as soon as the European war is over. This service should greatly facilitate the trade between Peru and the Atlantic seaports. The ships are of considerable size, the largest on this coast, having first-class passenger accommodations. Traveling from New York to these countries will hereafter probably be made with more comfort and take less time than heretofore, as the ships will make the voyage direct, without transferring at the Canal Zone.

This long-established shipping company has for many years maintained a passenger and freight service between the United Kingdom and the west-coast ports of South America via the Straits of Magellan. The general manager says in his letter:

I have pleasure in advising you that the directors of my company have decided to establish a service of rapid steamers between the west-coast ports and New York. This service will be commenced as soon as the present war is over. I shall be obliged if you will kindly mention this in your next report to Washington, so that the information may be made known in the United States by means of COMMERCE REPORTS. It is hoped that this new service will greatly facilitate trade between the United States of America and the South American Republics, besides being of great advantage to travelers.

RAILWAY NOTES OF NORTHERN RUSSIA.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Nov. 15.]

Trains are now running over the new broad-gauge substitute for the narrow-gauge railway between Vologda and Archangel, about half the distance from Vologda, or about 200 miles to a town called Nyandoma. It is expected that the entire broad-gauge line will be complete to Archangel not later than January 1, 1916. Already a great increase in efficiency has resulted, as the narrow-gauge trains have to go only half the distance, and so can make double the number of trips in the same time. The loading from broad-gauge to narrow and vice versa now takes place at Nyandoma instead of Vologda.

The steamer *Czar*, of the Russian-American Line, recently arrived at Kola, in northern Lapland, with about 500 workmen from the United States and Canada to rush work on the Kola railway. A large cargo of rails, locomotives, platform cars, switches, and other equipment from the United States was also unloaded at Kola for this railway, which, it is anticipated, will be running trains, at least for Government purposes, early in January.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN PUERTO PLATA DISTRICT.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Nov. 16.]

Commercial conditions in the Puerto Plata district are beginning to show slight improvement. The excellent prices that have prevailed in the New York market for cocoa have brought considerable prosperity, and should these prices continue business should show great improvement next year, especially in the region which has its outlet at the port of Sanchez. Business is still dull in Puerto Plata, due primarily to the condition of the Dominican Central Railway, which connects the port with the interior.

REPORTS ON AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN INDIA.

Copies of several agricultural reports from India and a copy of the Indian Trade Journal of Calcutta for October 15, 1915, have been received from Consul Carl F. Deichman at Bombay, and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices (refer to file No. 69668). The Trade Journal, in the issue forwarded, has a general crop forecast for indigo. The various other reports offered are:

- Final forecast of the jute crop of Assam.
- First forecast of the winter rice crop of Assam.
- Preliminary forecast of the autumn rice crop of Assam.
- First forecast of rice crop of United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.
- Sowings report of the ground-nut crop of the Madras Presidency.
- Sowings report of the rice crop of the Madras Presidency.
- Second sowings report of the gingelly crop of the Madras Presidency.
- Second sowings report of the cotton crop of the Madras Presidency.
- First forecast of the indigo crop of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.
- First forecast of the indigo crop of the Punjab.
- Second forecast of the cotton crop of Assam.
- Second forecast of the til crop of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.
- Second forecast of the cotton crop of the Punjab.
- Second forecast of the sugar-cane crop of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.
- Second memorandum on the sesamum crop in the Bombay Presidency, including Sind and Native States.
- Second memorandum on the sugar-cane crop in the Bombay Presidency, including Sind and Native States.
- Second memorandum on the ground-nut crop of the Bombay Presidency, including Native States.

AMERICAN AND SWEDISH ICE-CREAM FREEZERS IN RUSSIA.

[Commercial Attaché Henry D. Baker, Petrograd, Nov. 9.]

There is a big sale of Swedish ice-cream freezers in Russia with capacities of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 quarts, the most popular being the 3-quart size, which now costs retail 9.50 rubles (\$4.90 at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble), which is about 20 per cent higher than in normal times. While it is possible to obtain American ice-cream freezers in Russia, their prices are about 50 per cent higher than Swedish freezers of similar capacity, though they are apparently of the same quality, material, and construction. Very few Russian dealers, therefore, keep them in stock. Ice-cream freezers are sold mostly in shops specializing in general household goods, and also in a few hardware shops.

A popular feature of the Swedish ice-cream freezers is that each one of them contains a small booklet printed in Russian giving receipts for making all kinds of ice creams, sherbet, frozen fruits, etc. Exact instructions also are given in the use of the ice-cream freezers. Various kinds of ice creams and ices constitute an extremely important part of Russian diet, especially in the summer, and there is a large sale of such ice preparations at the cafes.

[A Swedish 3-quart ice-cream freezer has been forwarded from Petrograd, which on its arrival will be shown at the New York office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in connection with the hardware exhibit that is being assembled.]

FINANCING CUBAN CREDITS.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

In order to hold, after the return of normal conditions, a substantial part of the increased business that has fallen to their share as a result of the present war, American exporters must be prepared to offer terms at least approximating those heretofore granted by Europeans.

The matter of arranging the financing of the credit is very simple. Drafts at 60 to 90 days sight on the Cuban importer are forwarded with the shipping documents through the shipper's bank and will be presented to the Cuban buyer by the correspondent of the forwarding bank. The Cuban accepts the draft and gets the documents entitling him to the goods. The bank holding the accepted draft may then return the acceptance to its correspondent in the United States, and the owner of the draft can use it as collateral or sell it at prevailing discount rates (under the Federal reserve banking act an accepted draft of the sort becomes a negotiable instrument), or if the shipper prefers, the Cuban correspondent bank will retain the draft for collection and remittance of the payment it calls for in due course, or it is possible that a loan may be negotiated with the Cuban bank with the accepted draft as collateral.

The above embraces the customary procedure of Europeans, and handling paper of the sort is one of the well-recognized activities of foreign banks. Until the Federal Reserve Act passed American banks were not, as a rule, familiar with paper of the sort, and it had not the status now given it. All Cuban transactions are in dollars, the Cuban currency and that of the United States circulating interchangeably and on exact parity.

GUAYAQUIL A MARKET FOR READY-MADE DRESSES.

[Consul Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Nov. 6.]

There is a dearth of competent dressmakers in Guayaquil, and these few state that apprentices manifest very little interest in learning the trade. Owing to this circumstance they are planning to establish business relations with reliable houses in the United States which are in position to supply samples regularly and to fill orders for ready-made dresses selected from their catalogues.

A number of Guayaquil ladies, who are supplied with frocks from Paris and New York, would be glad to receive catalogues regularly, as the only ones now obtainable must be purchased, for \$1 to \$2 each, from street vendors. The catalogues are sent to the street vendors by American firms under a wrong impression that those requesting them are possible purchasers. [The addresses of the ladies referred to may be obtained, upon application, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Ask for file No. 69515.]

A substantial mail-order trade in ready-made dresses can be developed here with practically no expense to the exporter. American firms desiring such business may send half a dozen catalogues (preferably in Spanish) regularly to the Guayaquil consulate, which will place them in the proper hands.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF FOODSTUFFS IN MADRID.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Spain, Nov. 5.]

For some time past the press of Madrid has had its attention called to the slow but continuous rise in price of foodstuffs and household supplies. El Liberal, one of the leading dailies of Madrid, compared in a recent issue the prices in October, 1915, with those in October, 1914. Quotations are from the open markets of La Cebada and Los Mostenses, in Madrid, which supply the retailers of the city. Retailers add 10 to 15 per cent (more in some instances) to the following, and it is that increased figure that the consumer pays:

Artículo.	1914	1915	Artículo.	1914	1915
	<i>Pesetas.</i>	<i>Pesetas.</i>		<i>Pesetas.</i>	<i>Pesetas.</i>
Mutton.....per kilo..	1.60	2.40	Lobsters.....each..	4.25	5.00
Sausage.....per dozen..	3.75	4.50	Merluza (fish).....per kilo..	1.85	2.00
Meat.....per kilo..	3.50	4.50	Sardines (fresh fish).....do..	.85	1.10
Veal.....do..	2.10	3.00	Pescadillas (fresh fish).....do..	1.25	2.00
Beef.....do..	1.40	2.00	Potatoes.....do..	.18	.25
Rabbits.....per pair..	2.40	3.50	Tomatoes.....do..	.14	.25
Clams.....per kilo..	.65	.90	Peas, beans, etc.....do..	.20	.40
Crabs.....do..	1.88	2.00	Eggs.....per hundred..	12.50	14.00

One kilo equals 2.2 pounds; the value of the peseta, in which the above are quoted, is about 19.3 cents. In addition to the above, notable advances have taken place in the prices of wood alcohol, sugar, coal, bread, and footwear. Coal has advanced 0.80 to 1 peseta over the price in 1914 for a sack of 100 pounds, delivered, at retail. The retail price of coal, delivered, is nearly \$15.50 per short ton.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.....	963 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Park, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(6)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2807 Eleventh Street, NW., Washington, D. C.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

RATES FOR WAR-RISK INSURANCE.

The Bureau of War-Risk Insurance of the United States Treasury Department has issued, under date of December 6, 1915, a schedule of rates. The rates from any ports in the United States to any ports in the world (other than those named in the special list), or vice versa, are as follows:

Cargo, freight, and advances:

1. Between ports of the United States or its possessions, or between nonbelligerent ports in the Western Hemisphere, or between the west coast of the United States and Japan or China, 5 cents per \$100.
2. Between United States ports and belligerent ports in the Western Hemisphere, 15 cents per \$100.
3. Between United States ports and nonbelligerent ports other than above not north of Havre in Europe nor east of Sicily in the Mediterranean, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
4. To all other ports, $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

Vessel (voyage risks):

By voyage, meaning from port of loading to not more than two ports of discharge.

1. Between ports in the United States and its possession and nonbelligerent ports in the Western Hemisphere, one-eighth per cent.
2. Between United States and belligerent ports in the Western Hemisphere or between ports on the west coast of the United States and China and Japan, one-fourth per cent.
3. To other nonbelligerent ports not north of Havre, in Europe, nor east of Sicily in the Mediterranean, one-half per cent.
4. Other ports, three-fourths per cent.

Vessel (time):

Time policies to be issued for a period of 90 days only; rate $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

If warranted to use only ports in the Western Hemisphere, three-fourths per cent.

If warranted to use only nonbelligerent ports in the Western Hemisphere, three-eighths per cent.

All rates are subject to change without notice and effective from the date thereof.

REVISED ESTIMATE OF DENIA RAISIN CROP.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Valencia, Spain, Nov. 8.]

The previous estimate of the 1915 Denia raisin crop of 10,000 metric tons (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 18, 1915) must be revised in view of more definite information published during the past week, according to which the yield will not surpass 6,000 tons and may be nearer 5,000. From the growers' standpoint the season is now closed, since practically all unmarketed fruit is in the hands of traders, who now await favorable opportunities for a turnover at a reasonable profit above the high prices paid for their holdings.

The crop has greatly fluctuated during the past decade and better results may be looked for next season. It is true the vines were greatly affected by cryptogamic diseases; but there are many indications that farmers are already treating the vines and otherwise preparing for a healthy start next year.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he has received in stock during the week ended December 4 the following new United States Government publications, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Practical Tree Surgery. Yearbook Separate 622—Practical work on the modern art of preserving trees by means of concrete fillings, etc.—Covering the principles involved and the general theory of tree growth. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Tests of the Absorptive and Permeable Properties of Portland Cement Mortars and Concretes, together with Tests of Damp-Proofing and Waterproofing Compounds and Materials. Standard Bureau Technologic Paper 3.—Covers purpose of tests, equipment, description of methods, and information relative to damp-proofing and waterproofing compounds, with statistical tables. Price, paper, 20 cents.

Tests of Structural Timbers. Forest Service Bulletin 108.—Gives purposes of the tests and methods of tests and results, with grading of timber according to their mechanical properties. Price, paper, 20 cents.

Information Concerning the Milch Goats. Animal Industry Bulletin 68.—Covers present situation, diseases, breeding, uses of goats, milk, etc. Price, paper, 15 cents.

Trade Directory of Central America and the West India. Miscellaneous Series 22, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—List of the merchants, tradesmen, manufacturing institutions in South America, arranged alphabetically by countries and industries. Price, cloth, 60 cents.

The Women's Muslin-Underwear Industry. Report on the Cost of Production of Women's Muslin Underwear in the United States, Miscellaneous Series 29, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Covers women's clothing industry, scope of investigation, capital, profits, manufacturing and selling, machinery, processes, working conditions, etc. Price, paper, 20 cents.

Dyestuffs for American Textile and Other Industries. Special Agents Series 96.—An article by Thomas H. Norton, covering dyestuff situation in the United States, American supply, the German industry, processes of manufacture, etc. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Commercial Organizations in the United Kingdom, with a Description of British Manufacturers' and Employers' Organizations. Special Agents Series 102.—Descriptions of the British chambers of commerce and the manufacturers' and employers' organizations. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Banking Opportunities in South America. Special Agents Series 106, Report of William H. Lough.—Covering the situation in South America, embracing probable lines of development, banking situation in the various countries, earnings, profits, etc. Price, paper, 20 cents.

Mathematics in the Elementary Schools of the United States. International Commission on the Teaching of Mathematics. The American Report, Committees I and II, Education Bureau Bulletin 13, 1911.—Covers teaching of mathematics in general, elementary schools, methods employed in teaching, grades, preparation, teachers, etc. Price, paper, 15 cents.

The Status of Rural Education in the United States. Education Bureau Bulletin 8, 1913.—Embraces urban and rural school data, the one-teacher school, essentials for efficiency, supervision, organization, etc. Price, paper, 15 cents.

Saving Fuel in Heating a House. Mines Bureau Technical Paper 97.—Practical article on the economical use of fuel for domestic purposes, covering uses of wood, anthracite and bituminous coal, peat, coke, oil, gas, and electricity, directions for proper management of fireplaces, stoves, steam and hot water apparatus, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Composition of the Natural Gas Used in Twenty-five Cities, with a Discussion of the Properties of Natural Gas. Mines Bureau Technical Paper 109.—Covers the method used in consumption of natural gas, with results attained, comments on the samples, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Uses of Commercial Woods of the United States.—Beech, Birches, and Maples. Agriculture Department Bulletin 12, covering supply, early uses, agricultural implements, furniture, lumber, preservative treatment, etc., of beech, birches, and maples. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Highway Bonds: A Compilation of Data and Analysis of Economic Features Affecting Construction and Maintenance of Highways Financed by Bond Issues, and the Theory of Highway Bond Calculations. Agriculture Department Bulletin 136.—Embraces county highways, market roads, cost of highway construction and maintenance, bond issues, etc. Price, paper, 25 cents.

Shortleaf Pine: Its Economic Importance and Forest Management. Agriculture Department Bulletin 308.—Covers adaptability for forest management, present supply, yield, values, etc. Price, paper, 15 cents.

Honeybees: Wintering, Yields, Imports and Exports of Honey. Agriculture Department Bulletin 325.—Covers wintering, honey yields for the season of 1914, etc., with statistical tables. Price, paper 5 cents.

Hints to Poultry Raisers. Farmers' Bulletin 528.—Covers selection of a breed, incubation, breeding, poultry houses, feed, egg production, diseases, and marketing. Price, paper, 5 cents.

SOUTH MANCHURIA AND EAST MONGOLIA FINANCE.

[Extract from Manchuria Daily News, Oct. 27, forwarded by Consul A. A. Williamson, Dalren.]

The nature of the new financing organization for South Manchuria and Eastern Mongolia, reported by newspapers at home as the Government plan, is:

The new bank shall be capitalized at 10,000,000 yen (\$4,980,000) with its head office in South Manchuria. The loans advanced by the special loan service of the Yokohama Specie Bank shall be restored to the Central Treasury as they are repaid, and may be transferred to the charge of the new bank. The deposit section of the Finance Office shall underwrite the debentures of the new bank to the maximum amount of 15,000,000 yen (\$7,470,000) bearing interest of not more than 5 per cent per annum.

The new bank shall advance long-term loans on the security of real estate in addition to general banking business. It is authorized to issue debentures up to 10 times the paid-up capital.

The rates of interest on the loans of the new bank shall be made subject to the approval of the Government semiannually.

COFFEE CROP OF SALVADOR.

[Vice Consul Lynn W. Franklin, San Salvador, Nov. 13.]

Preparations are now being made to harvest the 1915-16 coffee crop of Salvador, which it is believed will reach a total of 75,000,000 pounds; 60,000,000 pounds will probably be exported. This is considered to be a very good crop and compares favorably with the crop of the preceding year, which was 77,007,300 pounds and which was produced by the following departments: Santa Ana, 12,888,000; Ahuachapán, 8,137,400; Sonsonate, 5,573,400; La Libertad, 14,174,400; San Salvador, 2,480,100; Chalatenango, 88,700; Cuscatlan, 489,000; La Paz, 8,788,600; San Vicente, 753,000; Cabañas, 286,300; San Miguel, 4,861,700; Usulután, 18,071,000; Morazan, 404,700; and La Unión, 11,000.

There are approximately 211,000 acres planted in coffee trees in Salvador.

NEED OF AMERICAN SHIPS IN CHINA TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Oct. 8.]

Announcement has been made by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, the chief competitor in the trans-Pacific service of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., which has just given up its trans-Pacific service and sold its ships and other property in Pacific ports, that it is preparing, and to some extent is already prepared, to maintain the schedule of weekly sailings on which the ships of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and Pacific Mail steamships have been sailing by joint arrangement for the past 10 years and more.

For the time being several smaller-sized and indifferent Japanese ships have been secured, and the first of the new ships, the *Dairen Maru*, with a displacement of 8,000 tons, is announced to sail from Hongkong on November 1. The president of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, on his return to Japan from the United States within the past fortnight, announced that he had attempted to buy the ships of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., but had succeeded in purchasing the *Persia* only, though he still had hopes of buying the *China*. He also had hopes of purchasing a 10,000-ton vessel now under construction in the United States. In the meanwhile, his company is endeavoring to secure other vessels of proper size and equipment for trans-Pacific passenger and freight service, and in case ships already built can not be had, the company will immediately lay down new vessels for the trade.

How Commerce is Affected.

While the vessels thus placed in service will relieve to some extent the actual impasse which has arisen by the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail Co.'s service, the tonnage still available is inadequate to the demands of the trade, while passenger accommodations are so inadequate that accommodations on all vessels in trans-Pacific service at present, and those in prospective service, have been engaged for months ahead, and the accommodations available are altogether inadequate.

There is an even more serious phase to the situation from an American standpoint, however, which many American business men so far have not appreciated. The need is not only that of adequate tonnage and passenger accommodations for the shipment of goods and the transport of mails and passengers across the Pacific, but there is actual and pressing demand for American and other neutral ships, as differentiated from Japanese, British, or other nonneutral ships in the present war, and American manufacturers are losing a vast amount of trade in China, not only prospective but actual, and trade they already have had in the past, in not having American ships to carry their goods.

The situation is well illustrated in the matter of cotton piece goods for the trade in China, concerning which there has already been considerable discussion, and which represent so great a part in China's import trade. As reported heretofore, a large portion of the \$75,000,000 (gold) worth of cotton piece goods imported into China each year are imported by the firms under their own "chops" or trade-marks.

Restrictions on Trade.

For many years a combination between British manufacturers of cotton piece goods and German import and distributing houses in China has been one of the bulwarks of British and German trade in China, and has represented one of the strongest obstacles to the extension of American trade in such lines. By the terms of the British proclamation against trading with the enemy, however, British manufacturers can no longer furnish such goods to German or other enemy traders in China, Siam, or other countries in which extraterritorial jurisdiction prevails.

In the ordinary course of things these German houses would turn to the United States or other neutral countries for such supplies, and the United States has an exceptional opportunity to introduce American cotton goods into various Chinese markets through these firms. However, by the terms of the proclamation against trading with the enemy, British vessels and Japanese vessels are prohibited from carrying enemy goods, so that cotton goods manufactured in the United States for German firms in China can not be carried by such vessels.

What is true of cotton piece goods is true of all other lines of trade in which German houses are concerned. Not only does this rule apply to cotton goods and steel and iron products and all the lines of import trade in which American manufacturers have an opportunity otherwise to extend their markets during the present war and the present state of things in the manufacturing centers of Europe, but they can not ship American goods to German houses in China, even where such German firms have handled such American goods for years.

Lack of Neutral Vessels to Carry American Goods.

Most of the more important agencies of American firms trading in China, where such American manufacturers have not been represented by their own branch houses, have been with German firms. The chief lines of American locomotives and other railway equipment and material have been handled by German firms. American typewriters in many of the ports have been handled by German firms. American electrical goods, American food products, American cotton goods of standard grades, in short, nearly all lines of export of American goods to China have been more or less handled by German houses. All this trade is now difficult, if not impossible, as a result of the lack of neutral vessels on the Pacific which can carry American goods to German firms. Of course, if Germany controlled the Pacific, the same state of things would exist as to the supply of American manufactures to British, French, Russian, and other traders among the belligerents.

The point is that to secure the delivery of American goods to traders of any of the belligerents in China against the will of their enemies, requires vessels under the American or other neutral flag. In other words, so long as there are no American ships on the Pacific to carry American goods, the large trade of German and Austrian firms in China, which still remains large in spite of the restrictions due to the war, and would be immensely larger were transportation of goods to them available, is shut to American manufacturers. The American manufacturer and wage earner are directly and positively hurt by the lack of American ships on the Pacific at this time. There

has been more or less indirect injury to American trade in various parts of the world by reason of a lack of American ships at all times, but at present, and under war conditions, the injury is direct and positive, and immensely important.

The Japanese Service.

By the terms of subsidy arrangements between the Japanese Government and the Japanese companies, Japanese interests, of course, must first be taken care of at all times. The service, in short, is that of a Japanese company and primarily for Japanese purposes and ends.

There is marked interest in the new Dutch line from Java to the United States by way of Hongkong and other Oriental ports, and there is still talk of renewed service of British ships of various lines. The entire shipping situation as regards trans-Pacific services, however, is in an uncertain state and a highly unsatisfactory condition, and it is unlikely that there will be any substantial change from present conditions until it is better understood what may be expected in the way of service from American sources in the near future.

Recent articles in **COMMERCE REPORTS** have recorded successful efforts in behalf of neutral shipping on the Pacific, with the benefits coming partly to American commerce. The Java-Pacific Line will inaugurate a service between Batavia, Java, and San Francisco with a sailing from Batavia on December 15. Steamers will stop at various ports, including Manila and Hongkong. The successive stages in the arrangements made for this service were mentioned in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 11, November 5, 10, and 13. The new line will link Java and other islands of the rich Netherlands Indian Archipelago with San Francisco for closer trade relations, as well as supply facilities at the other ports mentioned. The service is made possible through the cooperation of three large Netherlands steamship companies which have been operating out to Java and the Orient—the *Nederland Steamship Co.*, and the *Java-China-Japan Line of Amsterdam*, and the *Rotterdam Lloyd*, of Rotterdam.

Arrangements for the organization of the *Pacific & Eastern Steamship Co. (Inc.)* to operate under the American flag between China, the Philippines, and the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the United States was mentioned in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 30, 1915. In the issues of October 22 and November 19 were reports of the formation of the *China Mail Steamship Co.* for traffic between San Francisco and China. This company is financed by Chinese in the United States.

Jute bags to the value of \$400, cabots (cotton drills) worth \$2,400, fancy groceries \$300, hosiery \$650, lumber \$51,650, tarred paper \$100, refrigerators \$100, rice \$44,200, shooks \$45,000, staves \$59,260, sugar \$15,950, wheat \$2,400,000, and wire \$5,476, or a total of \$2,625,486 worth of American merchandise, was imported by firms in the Patras consular district during the September quarter as the result of the trade-extension efforts of Consul A. B. Cooke, of that Greek port.

CROP REPORT OF IRELAND.

[Consul Wesley Frost, Cork (Queenstown), Oct. 29.]

The Irish hay crop in 1915, according to recently expressed official opinion, was decidedly superior to the crop of 1914, and the general impression here is that the 1915 crop was really exceptionally full. The dry weather in June was counteracted by abundant rains in July, and while the quality in many regions suffered by the moist weather at harvesting, the quantity was all that could be desired.

The abundant hay crop is said to have encouraged the fattening of cattle in Ireland, and more than the usual number of fat cattle have been shipped to England, to which country the shipments are almost always preponderantly composed of thin cattle for English fattening. This Irish fattening has called for stock foods to supplement the forage, and prices of oil cake, maize, and mill offals are consequently very stiff.

The present prices of farmers' hay in Cork range from \$14.25 to \$21 per ton. The total area under hay in Ireland in 1915 was 2,526,627 acres, an increase of 8,201 acres over 1914. Of this area 532,486 acres were first-crop hay from seed, 407,255 acres were second and third crop hay, and 1,586,886 acres were meadow hay.

SPAIN'S 1915 SUMMER CROPS.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 4.]

The "Informacion Financiera," published in Madrid, contrasts in a recent issue the report of the Spanish Government as to summer crops of 1915 compared with those of 1914. The following are the figures, the metric ton of 2,204 pounds being the unit:

Crop.	1914	1915	Crop.	1914	1915
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Corn (field).....	335,146.5	321,673.6	Peas.....	12,719.9	11,422.5
Rice.....	123,791.0	117,715.3	Beans.....	96,978.2	98,433.3
Miller.....	1,773.8	281.0	Lentils.....	4,788.4	5,544.4
Click peas.....	37,611.9	52,449.7	Peanuts.....	10,123.8	6,275.0
Pulse.....	73,487.8	81,416.5			

The falling off in crops of field corn, millet, and peanuts is marked.

AMERICAN PAPER MONEY PREFERRED TO GOLD IN ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Nov. 4.]

Attention is directed to the fact that American paper money in exchange for Italian paper lire in Italy brings about 8 per cent more than American gold. Americans coming to Italy will, therefore, find it to their advantage to bring paper money in preference to gold coin, and in addition will be able to take such money out of Italy, which can not be done with gold coin on account of the law forbidding the exportation or carrying of gold out of the country, which is rigorously enforced.

Bank drafts enjoy a still higher rate than American paper money. A sight draft on a New York bank in dollars sells at the highest rate.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 2817.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for furnishing the following materials. Firms desiring to submit proposals should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving schedule numbers desired: Schedule 9066, muriatic, nitric, and sulphuric acids, calcium carbide, paint drier, and petrolatum; schedule 9067, redwood and 1 and 1½ inch seasoned spruce; schedule 9068, brass screws, steel nuts, 1½-inch-wide elastic webbing, oak-tanned rigging leather, ¾-inch oak-tanned pump leather, and bells for motor boats; schedule 9069, muriatic acid and calcium carbide; schedule 9070, soft sheet steel, round rivert-rod steel, and medium bar steel; schedule 9071, loofa fiber sponges, rolled naval brass nuts, and steel nuts; schedule 9072, 12,000 cones of sewing cotton, 36-inch calfskin heads for bass drums, and B-flat clarinet reeds; schedule 9077, telephone wire; schedule 9078, telephone cable, bell wire, rat-tail wire for aerials, and single conductor wire; schedule 9079, beech, birch, and maple (mixed), red or yellow birch, firs, and seconds maple, white maple firs, red oak, white oak, New England country white pine, and New England spruce; schedule 9080, white pine and green dock shores juniper poles; schedule 9081, white ash, white pine, white Idaho pine, juniper poles, New England spruce, sawn spruce, southern spruce, and spruce sticks for spars; schedule 9082, furnishing and installing 6-ton platform scale; schedule 9083, monel metal fuel tanks, and nitrate sodium; schedule 9084, power pipe threading and cutting-off machine; schedule 9085, machines for use in rope walk; schedule 9086, controllers for boat cranes; schedule 9087, double cylinder winches; schedule 9088, angle steel and ribbed floor steel plates; schedule 9089, mattress covers; schedule 9090, tinned lard; schedule 9091, marine glue; schedule 9092, automatic steam towing machine; schedule 9093, electrical supplies; schedule 9094, barometers; schedule 9095, medium steel plates; schedule 9096, phosphor bronze wire; schedule 9097, local turret fire-control panels; schedule 9098, mustard and macaroni; schedule 9099, round carbon steel and pure sperm oil; schedule 9100, calcium carbide, putty in oil, 4 by 24 inch safety treads, 40-inch-wide burlap, hydraulic leather, lenses for deck lights, ½-pound hanks of flax twine, and standard-weight wrought pipe; schedule 9101, gauge-testing outfits; schedule 9102, 4-conductor telephone cable, double conductor wire, single conductor wire, and twin conductor wire; schedule 9103, rough brass angle, check, cross, gate, and globe valves; schedule 9104, bar brass and Nos. 1, 2, and 4 pig iron; schedule 9105 North Carolina pine pitch and dry Venetian red; schedule 9106, malleable-iron pipe fittings, malleable-iron unions, upholstery leather, 14-foot ash oars, and lignum vitæ logs; schedule 9107, boat anchors, galvanized-iron or steel buckets, padlocks, and brass screws; and schedule 9108, Turkish toweling, steel bolts and nuts, brass screws, composition pipe fittings, and composition unions.

Coal, No. 2818.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States engineer customhouse, St. Louis, Mo., until December 29, 1915, for furnishing 30,000 tons of coal. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Repairs, No. 2819.—Sealed proposals will be received by the commanding officer, Coast and Geodetic Survey steamer *Bache*, Norfolk, Va., until December 13, 1915, for repairs to the steamer *Bache*. Blank proposals and information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Construction work, No. 2820.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C., until January 11, 1916, for the construction of a single-screw, wood, steam-propelled fishery vessel, delivered at the fisheries station, Boothby Harbor, Me. The vessel is to be similar in type to the best modern menhaden fishery vessel, about 108 feet in length over all, 22 feet beam, and 11 feet long. Blank proposals and particulars may be obtained on application to the above office.

Furnishing brass castings, No. 2821.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until December 18, 1915, for furnishing and delivering to general lighthouse depot, Tompkinsville, N. Y., approximately 5,000 pounds of brass castings, from January 2, 1916, to June 30, 1916, for store account. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

Installing metal shelving, etc., No. 2822.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 8, 1916, for installing metal shelving, portable steel racks, steel boxes, metal storage racks, steel angles and plates, and galvanized-wire partitions at the naval torpedo station, Newport, R. I. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the above-named bureau.

PROMOTION OF MADE-IN-CANADA GOODS.

[Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul, Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 18.]

The Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce has inaugurated a new system for the benefit of people desiring to purchase made-in-Canada goods. A notice which is being given publicity in the Canadian press reads:

The department is frequently in receipt of inquiries as to whether certain goods are manufactured in Canada and, if so, by whom. In this connection the catalogues of manufacturers are found of value, enabling the inquirers to be directed to the proper sources of supply. Manufacturers are therefore requested to forward their catalogues, together with discount sheets and price lists, to the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, where they will be indexed and filed for purposes of reference. Trade commissioners also find these catalogues of value in connection with their work, and manufacturers should make a point of keeping the various officers of the Canadian Commercial Intelligence Service supplied with their latest catalogues.

Canada maintains a corps of trade commissioners and commercial agents in the leading countries of the world, except the United States, and except, at present, the countries at war with Great Britain. It is the duty of these officials to promote Canadian foreign trade. The British consular corps also cooperate in the extension of Canada's trade. The Department of Trade and Commerce, with the trade commissioners, commercial agents, and British consuls, constitute what is known as the Canadian Commercial Intelligence Service.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE TO FREIGHT.

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, Canada, Nov. 20.]

According to a recent order of the board of railway commissioners railway companies west of Port Arthur may be held responsible for damages to consignments of perishable freight to the extent of half the freight charges on the shipment if negligence of the railway or its employees is responsible for the damage. In the past such shipments have always been forwarded at "owner's risk." The same order also requires that the railways accept less than a carload of perishable freight in heated cars on any days of the week that are scheduled.

This order affects Winnipeg and other western shippers to such an extent that the transportation committee of the Manufacturers' Association held a meeting November 18 and protested against the ruling of the commission. The shippers held that the railway commission should not interfere with a service which had been so satisfactory for years past without obtaining their views upon the matter generally, and this protest was upheld by the association at their meeting later.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Wire nails, No. 19496.—An American consular officer in India reports that a firm in his district desires to equip a plant for making wire nails. Prices and full information are requested.

Roofing, wire nails, etc., No. 19497.—A report from an American consular officer in Greece states that a company desires prepared roofing of weather-resisting qualities in rolls of about 108 square feet, wire nails, and liquid cement for attaching the roofing. The company requests samples and quotations f. o. b. New York. The firm states it is willing to pay cash against documents in New York. Correspondence may be in French or English.

Wearing apparel, etc., No. 19498.—A firm in Russia informs an American consular officer that it desires to receive samples, catalogues, and price lists from manufacturers of socks, stockings, and underwear made of cotton, wool, and silk for women and children, combs, shoe polish, and novelties. Correspondence may be in Russian, French, or English. Cable address and bank references given.

Equipment wanted for coffee plant, No. 19499.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in France desires quotations, f. o. b. New York, terms, and full information in regard to equipment for a coffee plant. Roasters, crushers, sieves, bolters, and automatic packing machines are the principal items needed.

Paper, No. 19500.—A firm of commission agents in Greece desires to communicate with firms interested in exporting all kinds of paper, especially that used for printing newspapers; ordinary and fine writing; wove; foolscap; letter; and envelope paper. The paper wanted for newspapers must be of reddish color and have water mark of 2 parallel lines across the whole sheet; size about 81 by 115 centimeters. Quotations c. l. f. Patras, including war-risk insurance and commission of 4 per cent, are desired. A sample of the news paper may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 69525.) It is requested that samples accompany quotations. Bank references are given.

Fireless cookers, No. 19501.—A manufacturer's agent informs an American consular officer that he desires catalogues and full information from manufacturers of fireless cookers. Correspondence may be in English.

Jute sacks, No. 19502.—A report from an American consular officer in Russia states that a business man in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of flaxen and jute sacks, size 65 by 110 centimeters, and weighing from 455 to 525 kilograms per thousand. Correspondence may be in English.

Waterworks equipment, No. 19503.—An American consular officer reports that a municipality in Canada contemplates improving and extending its waterworks system, and desires quotations, c. l. f., port of destination, on 2 steel steam boilers, about 150 horsepower each; 1 large steam pump capable of pumping about a million and a quarter gallons of water a day; about 3 miles of cast-iron water pipe, 6 to 8 inches; about a dozen hydrants, and fittings for 2½-inch hose.

Household articles, etc., No. 19504.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a young man in his district desires to establish a house-to-house canvassing business, and requests quotations on household articles and clothing for women and children. Discounts, terms, packing, shipping charges, and all necessary details are requested.

Umbrella parts, No. 19505.—A firm in Norway requests an American consular officer to place it in touch with manufacturers of umbrella parts, such as crowns, runners, ribs, etc.

Optical goods, clocks, etc., No. 19506.—A report from an American consular officer in France states that a firm in his district would like to be placed in communication with manufacturers of optical goods, clocks, sewing machines, and electrical supplies, with a view to becoming their agent. Correspondence should be in French.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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INCREASE IN SUEZ CANAL TOLLS.

[Cablegram from American Embassy at Paris, dated Dec. 9.]

Suez Canal Co. informs embassy that canal tolls will be raised 50 centimes (9.6 cents) after April 1, 1916, making rate for laden ship 6 francs 75 centimes (\$1.30) and for ships in ballast 4 francs 25 centimes (82 cents) per ton.

NORWAY PROHIBITS SALE OF VESSELS.

[Cablegram from American consulate general at Christiania, Dec. 6.]

The Norwegian Government has prohibited the sale of Norwegian vessels to any foreign country. Law may be waived in special cases. [This is in correction of cablegram published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 10.]

DISCOVERY OF PLATINUM IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 4.]

The recently published rumor that platinum has been discovered in Spain was confirmed this week by Prof. Orueta in person. The latter is a Spanish mining engineer and was designated by the Instituto Geológico (Geological Society) to examine the Ronda Mountain Range for possible mineral deposits. He has made an address before the Instituto de Ingenieros de España (Society of Civil Engineers of Spain) in Madrid, in which he sets forth his labors and their results. He states that he has discovered platinum deposits of greater extent and richness than those of the Ural Mountains in Russia, which furnish about 90 per cent of the world's supply. The present market value of platinum is about \$46.25 per ounce.

As is known, Spain possesses the largest and richest mercury mines in the world; these are under lease to a British company, which exploits them.

OPERATION OF SWISS FEDERAL PURCHASING TRUST.

[American Minister P. A. Stovall, Berne.]

As stated in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for November 22, 1915, the Swiss Importation Trust (*Société Suisse de Surveillance*) began operations on November 18. Mr. H. Grobet-Roussy, who was chosen by the Federal Council as director of the society, left for Holland in October for the purpose of investigating the organization and policy of the Netherlands Oversea Trust. The head offices of the S. S. S., as the new body is known, will be in Berne, the address being *Parlaments-Gebäude, Zimmer No. 5*.

The trust, as indicated in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for November 2, 1915, will exercise no control over the importation of metals. This is to be in the hands of a separate syndicate. It has been decided to take as the basis for this syndicate one of the already formed organizations of engineers or metal workers in Switzerland. This syndicate will operate under the general supervision of the Swiss Society of Surveillance, and shipments of metal and metal products will be consigned to the Swiss Society of Surveillance. It is expected that the statistics of imports of metal, raw and refined, into Switzerland for the calendar years 1911, 1912, and 1913 will be taken as a basis for the amount of metal of each description to which the Swiss Society of Surveillance will accord entry into Switzerland. During the continuance of hostilities the same proportional amount of metal imports will be permitted as the average in similar periods of the years mentioned.

AUSTRALIAN REFERENDUM PROPOSAL ABANDONED.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Nov. 5.]

The referendum to the people for the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Commonwealth constitution was to have taken place on December 11, but by agreement among the premiers of the respective States and the premier of the Commonwealth, the referendum proposal has been abandoned. For this concession on the part of the Federal Government the States have agreed to surrender to the Federal Government the additional powers asked in the proposed amendments for the period of the war and one year thereafter, the respective State premiers undertaking to secure the passage of the necessary legislation and the Commonwealth premier undertaking to secure the passage of the legislation necessary for the withdrawal of the referendum.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN QUEENSLAND.

A bill has been introduced in the Queensland (Australia) Parliament, and has reached the upper house, providing that under certain conditions the Government shall have the authority to acquire the meat works of Queensland. There is also pending in the Queensland Parliament a workers' compensation bill. Copies of these measures have been forwarded by Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, at Melbourne, and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 924.

PRODUCTION OF TANNING EXTRACTS IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Nov. 10.]

Caracas newspapers announce that a concession has been granted to a resident of that city for the establishment of the industry of producing tanning materials. A long list of plants rich in tannic acid that grow abundantly in Venezuela is published, among them being divi divi, or the fruits of the *Caesalpinia coriaria*, of which 6,000 to 8,000 tons are exported annually; mangrove (*Rizophora mangle*), of which 1,000 to 4,000 tons are exported; and balatá (*Mimusops globosa*). Other plants listed are urape (*Bauhinia multinervia*), *Astرونium fraxinifolium*, *A. graveolens*, *A. concinnum*, Rosa del monte (*Brownea grandiceps*), alcornoco (*Bowdichia virgilioides*), jacque (*Prosopis cumunensis*), *Pterocarpus draco*, algarrobo (*Hymenaea courbaril*), and numerous ebonies, acacias, and mimosas.

As Venezuela is a large producer of hides and skins, the hope is expressed that, with the manufacture of tanning materials increased and cheapened, the leather industry may develop to large proportions. It is possible that capital for this new enterprise can not be found in the country, in which case the promoter would probably be willing to transfer his concession.

[The name of the concessionaire may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69246.]

RAPID GROWTH OF CUBAN PROSPERITY.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

Figures just given out by the Bureau of Information of the Cuban Department of Commerce reveal an astonishing increase in business and prosperity in Cuba in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915. Exports amounted to \$219,447,322, or \$88 per capita, an increase of \$22 per capita in one year. Strange to relate, imports fell off appreciably, the total being \$8,000,000 less than in the year before, leaving a balance of trade in Cuba's favor in the neighborhood of \$91,000,000—a gratifying result as all will admit, for a Republic with little over two and a half million population. It figures out \$36.40 per capita, which is a per capita increase of \$5 for the fiscal year and illustrates the all-pervading prosperity of Cuba at this time.

The falling off in imports was not confined to any one line; it was a general, individual, and commercial retrenchment in the early part of the year. The necessity for this has seemingly vanished, and buying is brisk in all lines. One more year of good sugar prices—which now appears likely—will put Cuba in magnificent shape. The crop this year is worth \$205,000,000 in round numbers. The time is opportune to extend all lines in Cuba and press sales.

Result of Trade Opportunities.

Consul James Oliver Laing reports that as a result of Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 17821, published in COMMERCE REPORTS on August 9, 1915, an electrical engineer of Karachi has placed an order for electric fans for a hotel in that Indian metropolis. He also states that orders for agricultural implements have been placed in the United States.

AUSTRALIAN STATES COMBINE TO MARKET WHEAT.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Nov. 5.]

Following the action of the Commonwealth government, when it took into its own hands the chartering of tonnage for the shipment of the available surplus of wheat for export from Australia, the question arose as to how the tonnage should be apportioned among the different exporting States in such a manner that one State should not have an advantage over another in marketing its wheat. This problem seems to have been solved by an agreement arrived at among the premiers of the different Australian States, at their conference in Melbourne on November 4, under which the various States practically form a joint company to pool their interests in the wheat crop.

The full details of the scheme have not yet been announced, but it may be stated that the individual States will pass legislation which will permit them to take over the whole business of exporting the harvest and selling it on the London market. They will operate through existing wheat firms, which will buy and sell the grain for the account of the Government. The transactions are to be financed through the Associated Australian Banks, which will guarantee payment to the farmer of the price accepted by him.

Any losses or profits on the transactions are for the account of the associated Governments, and will be apportioned among the respective States on the basis of the wheat purchased and sold by each at the conclusion of the arrangement. It is also probable that provision will be made for the issue of negotiable scrip on the wheat purchases made by the respective Governments.

Under this plan of shipping it is expected that competition between the different States will be avoided, and that the question of allotment of freight to one State in preference to another will be settled as the interest will be pooled. The harvesting of wheat in Australia begins in December.

[An article on the surplus wheat crop in Australia was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 8, 1915. Other articles on the wheat crop were published in the issues of Oct. 20 and Oct. 23.]

TRADE-LETTER FILE AT CONSULATE GENERAL.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Greece, Nov. 13.]

Since the outbreak of the European war the Athens consulate general has, in order to stimulate the work of American trade extension, kept in a conspicuous position in its reading room a special file containing all letters received from American firms expressing a desire to extend their business relations in the consular district.

This file is brought to the attention of local business men seeking American connections, and copies or translations of letters relating to their particular interests are given them, together with whatever further information the staff of this office may be able to supply, in order to leave nothing undone to attract their attention and interest.

As soon as it becomes evident that such an interest has been aroused this office writes to the American exporter in question, giving him the name and address of the interested person, and is thus often successful in establishing business relations profitable to both parties concerned.

ADDITIONS TO LIST OF RADIO STATIONS.

Several new land and ship stations, established for radio purposes in various parts of the United States, are mentioned by the United States Bureau of Navigation in its December issue of the Radio Service Bulletin.

There are three additional land stations, each located at a fort and operated and controlled by the United States Signal Corps of the War Department. The locations are at Fort Constitution, N. H.; Fort Dade, Fla.; and Fort Moultrie, S. C. Each uses the United States Army system, has a wave length of 825, is used exclusively for Government business, and has no regular hours.

There are eight new ship stations, as follows: *Alaska*, Kilbourne & Clarke system (240); wave lengths, 300, 450, 500, and 600; operated and controlled by the Alaska Steamship Co., owner of vessel. *Edna*, controlled by Sudden & Christensen, owner of vessel. *Galatea*, Marconi system; wave lengths, 300 and 600; operated and controlled by Marconi Co.; E. L. Ford, owner of vessel. *Mackinaw*, Halcun system (240); wave lengths, 300 and 600; North and South American and transoceanic service; operated and controlled by George and James Flood, owners of vessel. *Nevada*, wave lengths, 300 and 600; Goodrich Transit Co., owner of vessel. *North America*, composite system; wave lengths, 300 and 600; North and South American and transoceanic service; operated and controlled by the Merritt & Chapman Derrick & Wrecking Co., owner of the vessel. *Orleanian*, Marconi system; wave lengths, 300 and 600; R. Lawrence Smith (Inc.), owner of vessel. *Pacific*, wave lengths, 300 and 600. The *Alaska*, *Mackinaw*, and *North America* are designated as for the general public.

There are five additions to the list of special land stations. These are: Lexington, Ky., controlled by Otto Holstein (Company A, Signal Corps, Kentucky National Guard), wave lengths, 500 and 1,800; Marion, Ohio, controlled by Keith Henney, wave lengths, 200 and 425; New Braunfels, Tex., controlled by Arthur E. Mollenhauer, wave lengths, 200 and 450; San Jose, Cal., controlled by Charles D. Herrold, wave lengths, 300 and 600, variable; Wayne, Nebr., controlled by U. S. Conn, president of State Normal School, wave lengths, 300 and 425.

EXCHANGE RATE HANDICAPS AMERICAN TRADE.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, Nov. 10.]

On current quotations the local banks sell exchange on Paris, London, and New York at the following rates: Paris, 100 francs at 90.35 pesetas; London, pound sterling at 25 pesetas; New York, dollar at 5.42 pesetas. Therefore, if the Spanish merchant purchases merchandise to the value of \$100 in each of the three countries (assuming original cost and freight to be equal), when he purchases exchange to settle these three invoices, his merchandise will have cost him as follows: France, 468 pesetas; England, 482 pesetas; United States 542 pesetas. Under abnormal conditions and in commodities the supply of which is temporarily hampered business is possible under these rates, but it is not tenable except for the period of the abnormal conditions and is a handicap in the case of readily obtainable commodities.

TRADE AT THE NIZHNI NOVGOROD FAIR.

[London Times Russian Supplement, Oct. 30.]

This year's Nizhni Novgorod Fair may be epitomized in the statement that directly or indirectly, owing to the war, it is being conducted with a shortage of all manufactured goods in face of an increased demand, both of which factors have rendered it peculiarly brisk and animated. Generally speaking, intensive work undertaken for the commissariat by mills and factories has depleted supplies for the ordinary domestic market to such an extent that in many cases the biggest commercial firms have not been able to send to the fair more than 50 to 60 per cent of their last year's consignments.

The demand for commodities on the part of the Provinces, especially the regions favored with good harvests, and for raw material on the part of the handicraftsmen (*kustars*) and artisans who are filling large orders for the army, even if it has not risen as compared with last year, has in any case exceeded the supply, thanks to which prices have strengthened and gone up nearly all round. The comparatively increased demand is also partly attributed to the higher purchasing power of the people as the result of the discontinuation of the State sale of liquor.

Cotton, Flax, and Wool.

Not anticipating a big demand, the mills and factories were working at low pressure till the middle of May, but when the harvest prospects proved to be especially favorable the provincial merchants suddenly deluged the Moscow firms with cash orders. The demand for cotton textiles grew daily; and since stocks on hand were small, they were speedily exhausted, with the result that several of the larger houses, finding themselves sold out before the fair, were not even represented there.

Flax and woollen goods are similarly affected. The flax-spinning mills have been working almost exclusively for the commissariat and placing on the market only such supplies as have been left over after filling Government orders. Prices have risen 5 to 15 per cent, and the coarsest assortments are offered without the smallest discount.

The Russian wool market has been most seriously affected by the war. As is known, the industry depends chiefly upon the foreign market for its raw material, so that the cessation of import deprived Russian manufacturers of over a million poods (16,000 tons) of merino and mixed wool, which constitutes 50 per cent of the manufacture of this raw material in Russia. The occupied portions of Poland are also large productive regions for the finer grades of wool, and the loss of this source of supply has further increased the shortage. Thus some of the latest transactions in Rostof wool were effected at 70 rubles per pood (about \$1 per pound) instead of 38 to 42 rubles (\$0.54 to \$0.60 per pound) as in normal times.

Leather and Shoes.

Under ordinary conditions the Fair is the principal purveyor of leather and leather goods not only for the mills and factories of Russia but also for the foreign market. This year, however, the consignments of these goods were less than 25 per cent of the usual figures.

Owing to the stoppage of foreign trade the Russian hide market has begun to experience a shortage of tannin and heavy sole leather ordinarily obtained from the United States with the result that the private market is sorely inconvenienced and prices are rising. Later, the Moscow warehouses have been replenishing their stocks, while provincial tanners, curriers, etc., have made deliveries to the Fair; but, even so, it is impossible to depend upon large supplies, while such is the demand that provincial dealers and manufacturers have forestalled future deliveries of half manufactures, manufactures, and raw material. In this connection it should be noted that Siberia, as a rule the principal purveyor of pelts for the Fair, can not furnish its usual quota as the result of transport difficulties and is compelled to dispose of its output to local factories and hand workers at reduced prices.

Drugs and Jewelry.

Since the Russian drug trade is almost entirely dependent upon foreign supplies, which constituted as much as 70 per cent of the Fair's consignments, the cessation of international trade has proved tantamount to the interruption, if not the liquidation, of this branch for a considerable period, until the country can develop its own production.

The market for jewelry and trinkets, likewise largely fed by foreign imports, has also been obliged to shrink to the limits of home production. The Nizhni Novgorod Fair, however, has been losing importance in the jewelry trade for several years as the result of the development of the system of commercial traveling.

When the fair opened this year on July 28, 1,308 firms had arrived, but the number had increased to 1,488 by August 14, whereas last year the corresponding figures were 2,025 and 2,178.

[A report on the fur trade at the Nizhni Fair was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 5, 1915.]

OFFERS ESTIMATE OF FRENCH WINE PRODUCTION.

[Vice Consul John J. Ernster, Lyon, Nov. 15.]

The Wine Growers' Gazette has just published an estimate of the French vintage of 1915. For the whole of France, the Gazette estimates the production of wine in 1915 at 21,500,000 hectoliters (568,000,000 gallons) as against 59,000,000 hectoliters (1,558,606,000 gallons) in 1914. There is no official confirmation of the year's figures. The Gazette reviews the general conditions that affected the wine crop in 1915. It says:

"The characteristics of the year 1915 were considerable mildew and uneven production, and while entirely deficient as regards the output, yet it is superior in quality as compared with former years. In spite of the irregular weather and the numerous plant diseases, the quality is good everywhere and even superior in the well-cared-for vineyards, and its alcoholic strength averages higher, by several degrees, than that of the 1914 wines. There is very little wine of a feeble alcoholic percentage."

[A previous article on the French production of wine for the present year was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 9, 1915.]

COAL CONSUMPTION IN PERNAMBUCO.

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, Brazil, Nov. 2.]

Since August, 1914, the consumption of coal in this district has been reduced notwithstanding the fact that about 15 months ago a very heavy consumer of coal entered the field when the Pernambuco Tramways & Power Co. substituted the present electric system for the long-used mule car system. This company owns and operates the gas company's plant also, and so are large importers of coal. Much more coal will be imported when the tramway company installs the proposed electric light plant. At present the trolley wires are extensively tapped to supply much of the downtown street and store lighting. Incidentally additional power will be required for running the elevators in the many new business blocks building or proposed.

The powerhouses of the tramway company being new and modern, that company is able to use in its fireboxes fine American coal, from which they are obtaining good results. However, in most of the grades in Brazil it is possible to use only the larger-sized screened coal that is imported from Wales.

Cutting Down Coal Consumption.

High freight and insurance rates are responsible for the tendency to cut down, save, and substitute whenever possible. It is understood, for instance, that one company is at present using about 33 per cent wood in the powerhouses and finding it so satisfactory will likely use more in the future. The numerous interurban railroads are now employing wood in place of coal. Cotton and other factories are beginning to consume wood wherever possible. The sugar mills use "bagaco" (the dried pulp left after the sugar is extracted from the cane) and wood.

The smaller number of vessels touching this port since the war has played an important part in the reduced coal consumption. The shutting down of the extensive dock-improvement work and of other municipal construction work should also be noted. This being a tropical climate, no coal or other fuel is required for domestic heating purposes, and for cooking, charcoal is used almost exclusively. There is no water power to be developed in this section, so that all power is generated from steam plants.

Range of Prices—Discharging Equipment.

Since August, 1914, Welsh coal has varied from \$12.50 to \$18.50 per ton delivered in bunkers, while American coal varied from \$10.25 to about \$11.50 c. i. f., to which should be added the high handling costs, i. e., stevedoring, lighterage, etc. The present price of Welsh coal is about \$16.80, delivered in bunkers, and of American coal, \$10.50 c. i. f. The prices are, of course, constantly fluctuating.

There have been no dock improvements during the last year; cargoes are discharged, as formerly, by means of lighters.

Coal Imports.

From April 28, 1914, to March 23, 1915; not one American vessel touched this port. On March 24, however, an American schooner loaded with coal arrived from Norfolk. To date 14 American schooners carrying coal from the United States have arrived in Pernam-

buco, and mail sent from the United States in the care of this consulate indicates that three or four more schooners are en route.

This consulate has not been able to obtain authoritative information regarding the imports of coal into this port, but it is hoped that statistics will be received in the near future.

[For previous reports on the Brazilian coal situation see COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 24, May 4, June 23, and July 24, 1915.]

SWATOW MARKET FOR AMERICAN THREAD.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Oct. 20.]

The imports into Swatow of thread on spools, in number of gross, for the years 1908 to 1915 (this year, 9 months) were: 1908, 29,610; 1909, 35,538; 1910, 38,402; 1911, 32,170; 1912, 42,698; 1913, 48,124; 1914, 74,635; 1915 (9 months), 26,550.

The demand for foreign thread has been constantly increasing (except in 1911). The results of the war are shown in the comparatively small import for the nine months of 1915. Now that the demand exceeds the supply there is a good opportunity for American thread manufacturers to enter this market.

British spool cotton thread has practically monopolized this market heretofore. The thread is of assorted colors, blue, black, and white predominating, and comes in 100-yard and 500-yard spools. It arrives in Swatow in assorted lots, carefully packed in tin-lined cases, 50 gross of 100-yard spools or 30 gross of 500-yard spools in each case. For instance, one case might contain: Spools of 100 yards—15 gross of No. 8 thread; 5 gross No. 10; 2 gross No. 20; 5 gross No. 24; 5 gross No. 30; 5 gross No. 36; 3 gross No. 40; 5 gross No. 50; 5 gross No. 60.

Another might contain: Spools of 500 yards—5 gross of No. 8 thread; 2 gross No. 40; 20 gross No. 50; 3 gross No. 60.

Each of the spools sold here bears a trade-mark or "chop," such as the picture of a "barrel," a "rake," or a "peacock." As it is not the habit of the ordinary Chinese to specify by the English name the spool of thread he wishes to buy, he asks for "barrel thread," "rake thread," or "peacock thread." This may seem of slight importance, but once a "chop" is well established by virtue of its quality and price, it is very difficult for a competitor to oust the thread bearing the popular "chop."

A Swatow firm has expressed a desire to communicate with American thread manufacturers in regard to representing them here.

[The name of the firm which desires to handle American thread in Swatow may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69077. Samples of thread commonly sold in the Swatow market have been forwarded and will be offered later by the Bureau under the same file number.]

Agricultural Engineers in Spain.

Consul Percival Gassett, at Malaga, has submitted a list containing the names and addresses of 63 agricultural engineers. This list covers all Spain. It may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 69722.

JAMAICA'S INTEREST IN AMERICAN GOODS.

[Consul J. C. Monaghan, Kingston, Nov. 2.]

The signs of the times favor reviving trade in Jamaica. On all sides it is possible to note this tendency. There are preparations which, when put into effect, will mean another line of ships between Jamaica and the ports of our Southern States, especially New Orleans, Galveston, and perhaps Mobile. There are no cotton, woolen, silk, jute, or linen mills in Jamaica. All the articles the island needs are imported from various parts of Europe.

One of Jamaica's biggest buyers and sellers of dry goods said to-day: "I am ordering American goods in crêpes, ratines, and silks, because half of the designs are new, are very attractive, and take the market. The expense is less to us to get our goods from the United States than all the way from England, and we are getting them more quickly. We have three or four times received goods from America, and sold them while still waiting for our English order to be filled.

"For these islands and for South and Central America nothing is too good. Even if the price seems to be high, the goods will be bought, provided they make up in cut, style, material, and finish. Anyone who hopes to palm off inferior articles will never succeed."

Travelers in the islands of the Gulf and Caribbean Sea and in South and Central America are being told to-day what was told to the travelers of 10, 15, 20, and 25 years ago—that a wide-open market awaits live, energetic young men, men who have the right lines, know how to present them, and are able to speak Spanish wherever Spanish is spoken and to speak Portuguese in Brazil. They can not fail to find at first a fair market, and in a short time a very profitable market and pleasant relations.

Before the war England, Germany, and even France and Italy, led here in lines in which the United States might have built up a more than fair trade.

A few days ago an enterprising young merchant stated at this consulate that he was seeking to establish trade between this island and Central and South America. He was urged to seek opportunities for trade between the United States and this island. Speaking of this trade, he said:

"The customer entering a store to buy a suit of clothes will, if American and other clothing is put before him, select the American nine out of ten times, because of style, cut, fit, finish, and price. This is an everyday experience with strangers coming into our shops. It is the same with an American-made shirt. It will give satisfaction because of its fit."

The views of this merchant pointed to the islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf as points to begin to build up a preliminary trade in Central and South America. A vast quantity of the goods used here are of the kinds wanted as far south as Buenos Aires.

It is a significant fact that certain kinds of trade are in the hands of the Chinese and they are said to be increasing in numbers and in the extension of trade. A small trial consignment of American-made clothes, sent to Buenos Aires, was quickly sold, but shippers in the United States and South American merchants were unable to arrive at a mutually satisfactory basis upon which to work. Ameri-

cans are now trying to enter the market, and with such rivals as England, Germany, France, Spain, and Italy trying to stay in, it will be well worth while to meet the merchants of these parts more than half way. A good way to work is along the line of as large orders as one can get and as long credits as are consistent with sound business. As it is winter in some of these countries when it is summer in the United States, winter goods can be sent and sold rather than packed or stored away.

NOTTINGHAM LACE AND HOSIERY TRADE.

[Consul C. M. Hiltch, Nottingham, England, Nov. 18.]

There has been a considerable change in the condition of the Nottingham lace market during the past month, particularly in the Levers section. The depressed condition that prevailed during the summer months has given way to one of decided activity. Large numbers of Levers machines that have been idle for several months are now running on full time. The opening of the fall and winter trade in the United States has created a brisk demand for independent beam torchons, imitation Barmen torchons, and valenciennes. Orders for considerable quantities of these goods are being placed and their execution will keep the manufacturers fully occupied for some time. One manufacturer, who has been in the lace business for many years, declared that he had never before done such a large volume of business, and many others are having a similar experience.

A number of orders have been placed for flouncings and pleatings, but there appears to be little demand at this time for allover. Despite the increased cost of material and the shortage of labor, a steady trade is being done by the curtain manufacturers.

While there has been a slight abatement of the activity that prevailed in the net trade during the summer, large consignments of net are still in demand, particularly of the silk nets and cording embroidery on silk nets. The hosiery manufacturers are running on full time, and experience some difficulty in filling orders promptly.

CHILDREN'S COURT TO BE ESTABLISHED IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 9.]

By royal decree, recently promulgated, the minister of justice was directed to draw and submit to Parliament a bill creating a children's court in appropriate parts of Spain. The bill, submitted to-day, is modeled, in a general way, on English statutes.

The court will be presided over by a judge, who will be assisted by one or more lay judges, and will have jurisdiction over delinquent children under 15 years of age. It will also have jurisdiction in case of vagrancy and begging on the part of these children. It will have authority to deprive either the mother or father, or both, of parental authority, and to punish either parent, or both, in cases where the parent instigates the offense or does not send the child to school. It will also have jurisdiction to punish masters for violations of the apprenticeship laws.

The bill is a decided innovation in Spanish jurisprudence.

CONSULAR TRADE-EXTENSION WORK IN COSTA RICA.

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San José, Oct. 25.]

During the quarter ended September 30, the San José consulate answered 215 commercial inquiries, furnishing trade information and classified lists of local importers. That this and earlier trade-extension work on the part of this office is bearing fruit is evidenced by the many new lines of American goods that are now to be found on the San José market.

American window glass is being sold in this market, which formerly obtained most of its supply from European countries. The leading local importer placed a \$1,500 order with a New York house during the past quarter, and this has since been filled most satisfactorily. Prices quoted were better than those of European makers and the packing was excellent.

Bags, Iron Products, and Clay Pipes.

This consulate has cooperated with importers in their endeavor to induce Costa Rican coffee shippers to use cotton sacks of American origin in place of jute sacks formerly purchased elsewhere. Two of the leading distributors are having success along this line, and it is possible that a permanent trade in these bags will be established.

American galvanized malleable iron pipe for small waterworks systems is now in use. Until recently, with few exceptions, only such accessories as nipples and elbows came from the United States.

Bar iron is now coming from the United States, likewise open iron sugar kettles, and importers are satisfied with terms, prices, and quality.

Clay pipes for sewers and drains are now supplied from the United States. Present prices seem to be satisfactory.

Wall Paper, Oil, Glue, and Other Wares.

While wall paper is now purchased from the United States, merchants agree that prices are not satisfactory and that there will probably be a return to former sources of supply as soon as possible.

Linseed oil is now being supplied from the United States, and American glue is being imported in increasing quantity.

Other American wares introduced into the San José market within the past three months as a direct result of the efforts of this consulate include a new adding machine (placed with an active agent), dress hooks and eyes, toilet paper, rubber heels, slippers, toilet soap, hats, saddlery findings, neckties, new lines of underwear, hosiery, and more brands of American shirts and collars.

SULPHUROUS ACID IN DUTCH EAST INDIES.

[Consul Bradstreet S. Ralrden, Batavia, Java, Oct. 27.]

In order to meet the urgent requirements of the various ice factories in the Dutch East Indies, the Bataafsche Petroleum Maatschappij at their works in Balikpapan, East Borneo, have increased their output of sulphurous acid and now manufacture about 4 tons of this article per month. The demand is so great, however, that it is feared that the Bataafsche concern will not be able to manufacture a sufficient amount to satisfy it.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a) Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

SPANISH WINE PRODUCTION.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Jerez de la Frontera, Nov. 10.]

The following figures, furnished by the Spanish Department of Agriculture, give the area of grapes and the production of wine for 1914 and the estimate for 1915:

Items.	1914	1915
Area.....acres..	3,066,874	3,169,119
Grapes.....pounds..	6,171,222,040	3,945,321,774
Raw wine.....American gallons..	427,109,261	267,141,921

SOME SPANISH GRAPES DECLARED IMMUNE TO DISEASE.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 6.]

Although there were 100,000 more acres of vineyards in Spain during 1915 than in 1914, the crop was 505,014 tons smaller than in 1914. The decrease has been found to be due to the plant diseases of mildew and oidium, as it is called in the Spanish language. There was a very severe blight of mildew in Spain in 1880, and it was noticed then, and again this year, according to *El Economista*, published in Madrid, that the types of grape known in Spain as vidadillo and artaguiton are immune to the disease.

POSTAL SCALES AND NEW POSTAL RATES IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, Nov. 18.]

Owing to the recent increase in the domestic rates of postage, a large demand for postal scales has sprung up in England, which local manufacturers can not at present supply. American manufacturers might with advantage, therefore, send catalogues and price lists to wholesale hardware dealers and stationers throughout the country, and also to the American consulates. Scales preferably should not show, as is frequently the case with American scales, the cost in cents on all classes of mail matter, as that information would only be misleading; the weight in ounces and pounds would be sufficient.

The inland postal rates, which apply to all correspondence posted within the United Kingdom and addressed to places in the United Kingdom (including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands) were from November 1, 1915, fixed as follows: Letters—not exceeding 1 ounce in weight, 1d. (2 cents); exceeding 1 ounce but not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, 2d. (4 cents), for every additional 2 ounces or fraction of 2 ounces, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (1 cent); books—not exceeding 2 ounces in weight, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (1 cent), every additional 2 ounces or fraction of 2 ounces, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (1 cent). No packet will be transmissible at the book rate of postage that exceeds 5 pounds in weight, 2 feet in length, and 1 foot in width or depth.

The newspaper rate is as follows: For every copy not exceeding 6 ounces in weight, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (1 cent), with a further $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every additional 6 ounces or fraction of 6 ounces. No packet will be admissible at the newspaper rate of postage that exceeds 2 pounds in weight.

For samples the rates are as follows: Not exceeding 4 ounces, 1d. (2 cents); between 4 and 6 ounces, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. (3 cents); between 6 and 8 ounces, 2d. (4 cents). No packet will be transmissible at this rate that exceeds 8 ounces in weight, 12 inches in length, 8 inches in width, or 4 inches in depth.

The following parcel rates are in force: Not exceeding 1 pound, 4d. (8 cents); not exceeding 2 pounds, 5d. (10 cents); not exceeding 3 pounds, 6d. (12 cents); not exceeding 5 pounds, 7d. (14 cents); not exceeding 7 pounds, 8d. (16 cents); not exceeding 8 pounds, 9d. (18 cents); not exceeding 9 pounds, 10d. (20 cents); not exceeding 10 pounds, 11d. (22 cents); not exceeding 11 pounds, 1s. (24 cents).

LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEES COMMENDED BY SECRETARY.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has recently commended employees of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses for assistance rendered to others under circumstances in which personal bravery was displayed. The persons commended and the special acts recognized were:

Charles S. Grenell, keeper of Chicago Pierhead Range Light Station, Ill., for the rescue from drowning of a man who had fallen from the pier at Chicago, Ill.

Andrew Shaw, Jr., keeper of Presque Isle Light Station, Pa., for assistance rendered the crew of the tugboat *Henry E. Gillen*, of Ashtabula, Ohio, which stranded in the vicinity of Presque Isle Light Station, Pa.

A collection of 10,960 bottles, containing specimens of the ocean bottom secured by vessels of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts has recently been transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

AMERICAN GLASS SHIPMENTS POORLY PACKED.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Oct. 16.]

A complaint has been made through the Sydney consulate regarding the condition of a large consignment of wired window glass which was received by a Sydney firm from New York. The consignment consisted of 30 large cases of glass, which arrived in a very bad condition. The firm that received the shipment here claims that 40 to 50 per cent of the glass was broken, and attributes its condition entirely to careless packing. Several cases were opened for examination. There was a vacant space of about 4 inches between the ends of the glass and the boxes. There was also considerable space between the sheets of glass and the sides of the boxes. Not half enough straw was used in filling the spaces between the ends and sides of the glass and the boxes. The quality of the straw was very poor, instead of being clean, bright, elastic straw, such as British manufacturers use in packing glass. A considerable portion of it was broken and dirty and not much better than chaff.

Nineteen large sheets of glass were packed together, without a dividing partition such as is always placed in the center of large boxes of glass from European manufacturers. Notwithstanding the poor quality and insufficient quantity of straw used in packing, there was no paper or straw separating the sheets of glass, as in shipments by British manufacturers. The battens on the sides of the boxes are not sufficient, and there are no battens across the tops and bottoms to prevent their being split in the middle. The boxes should be made of well-selected timber, at least 1 inch in thickness.

American Glass Superior, but Delivered Under Handicap.

I understand that the glass in the shipment mentioned is superior to that of European manufacturers, but, unless methods of packing similar to those adopted by European manufacturers are followed, American manufacturers will lose an exceedingly promising market. It is stated that a sheet of such glass is seldom broken coming from Europe.

This is not an idle complaint, as Australians are anxious and ready to continue business relations with United States manufacturers. Some months ago I called attention to the careless packing of American plate and sheet glass, but I am glad to say that recent consignments arrived here in a satisfactory condition. I was shown a consignment of American cathedral glass which was very carefully packed. Between the sheets of glass were sheets of corrugated paper.

In addition to the precautions mentioned in packing the glass, every case of British glass has several labels on the sides, with large letters printed in red, reading: "Glass, not to be laid flat"; also the word "glass" printed in large letters on various parts of the box.

Branch Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative branch offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

- Machinery**, No. 19507.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a new cement mill is about to be constructed in Chile, and quotations for machinery are desired. The installation will probably be made with two ball mills, each of these to have a capacity of 100,000 barrels production per year, although provision will be made in the building for the introduction of a third ball mill. Correspondence in French or Spanish preferred.
- Piano parts**, No. 19508.—A letter to the Bureau from a man in Argentina requests the names and addresses of manufacturers of piano parts, together with catalogues and full information. Correspondence must be in Spanish.
- Hardware, earthenware, etc.**, No. 19509.—An American consular officer in Africa reports that there is a demand for catalogues on the following articles: Hardware; locks; hinges; earthenware; furniture, such as iron beds and chairs; trunks; office supplies; matches; soap, common and toilet; leaf tobacco and cigarettes in tins; and light motor cars. A list of principal West African traders may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. It is suggested that, if possible, the catalogues should be in French, and if not, letters accompanying the catalogues should be in French.
- Wood pulp**, No. 19510.—A special agent of the Bureau reports that a company in Chile desires quotations and samples of wood pulp from American manufacturers. The kinds desired are unbleached sulphite pulp, soda pulp, and ground wood, both white and brown, and the quantity from 300 to 500 tons. Samples of the pulp wanted may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 782.)
- Imitation stained glass**, No. 19511.—A letter to the Bureau states that a company in England desires names and addresses of manufacturers of imitation stained glass, samples of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 79.)
- Electrical supplies, etc.**, No. 19512.—An American consular officer reports that a firm in France desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of electrical supplies, and lamp shades made of metal and porcelain. It is stated that purchases will be made on cash basis. Correspondence should be in French.
- Condensed milk**, No. 19513.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a retail company in his district desires to import condensed milk. Quotations and full information should be sent.
- Colored pencils**, No. 19514.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that requests have been received for quotations on violet copying pencils and blue leads.
- Glass for miners' lamps**, No. 19515.—A firm in England informs an American consular officer that it would be glad to receive c. i. f. quotations on glasses for miners' safety lamps, standard size, as follows: 2½ inches long by 2¼ inches in diameter and three-sixteenths inch thick. The glass should stand heating up to 212° F. and plunging into water at 45°.
- Cold-storage plant**, No. 19516.—A report from an American consular officer in Africa states that a business man, who is engaged in supplying meats, fish, vegetables, etc., desires to purchase a small cold-storage plant to install in a room 20 by 25 by 10 feet. It is suggested that catalogues be sent to the consulate.
- Hardware and kitchen utensils**, No. 19517.—A firm in France is desirous of being placed in communication with manufacturers of hardware and kitchen utensils made of aluminum and enamel. Correspondence should be in French.
- Shoe laces, cotton yarns, etc.**, No. 19518.—A commercial agent in charge of the bureau's branch office in New York reports that a firm in Norway is interested in establishing commercial relations with manufacturers of round laces for leather boots, cotton yarns for textile mills, wash rags, and wash cloths. Bank references given.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 291 Washington, D. C., Monday, December 13 1915

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BRITISH PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF MACHINE TOOLS.

[Cablegram from Commercial Attaché, London, Dec. 11.]

The British importer of machine tools must obtain a license from the board of trade, which, in cooperation with the war munitions board, restricts the disposition and exportation of such articles and regulates profits. [A previous notice on this subject was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 6, 1915. Upon receipt of a detailed report by mail further information will be published.]

CIRCULAR TO THE HEMP TRADE.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, is in receipt of a cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands advising that, during the month of November, Philippine Government fiber inspectors inspected and stamped 89,211 bales abaca and 3,417 bales maguey, as follows: Abaca: A, 246; B, 785; C, 1,924; D, 3,459; E, 8,550; S-1, 1,775; S-2, 2,073; S-3, 755; F, 10,881; G, 3,420; H, 2,241; I, 13,948; J, 14,112; K, 4,163; L, 14,503; M, 5,082; strings, etc., 1,294. Maguey: One, 351; two, 2,206; three, 792; D, 68.

NEW DANISH MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY LAUNCHED.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Nov. 1.]

A new marine insurance company has been started in Copenhagen, and begins business at once. The capital is \$4,000,000. War risks will be accepted. The name of the company is "Baltica." The founders of Baltica are all Danish and only Danish funds have been subscribed. Many marine risks on Danish bottoms have in the past been underwritten in foreign companies, and this new company will keep premiums at home.

CONSULAR WORK IN THE CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe.]

The trade activities of the Teneriffe consulate during the September quarter fell under four headings—(a) American merchandise newly introduced; (b) American merchandise ordered direct for the first time; (c) agencies placed with local firms; and (d) special work.

In the first division came pianos, rubber goods, and drugs (aside from certain patent medicines). The pianos are manufactured in Chicago, and the effort to introduce this high-class merchandise covered an extended period. An attempt made in the previous quarter failed, and it was not until a personal interview was had with the local dealer and slightly better terms were secured from the Chicago firm that the agency negotiations were brought to a successful close. The rubber goods referred to were manufactured by an Ohio firm, which sent, unsolicited, a lot of expensive samples to this consulate. Notice of the appointment of a local agent was received in a letter dated September 10.

Correspondence with a wholesale druggist of Las Palmas, Grand Canary, explaining the advantages of the American markets, brought an unexpected order direct to the consulate. The order, which contained a list of 30 different products, was returned, with a list of American firms, and the wholesaler has since reported that the order has been placed in the United States.

Direct Orders—Other Consular Activities.

American pins and canned goods were ordered direct for the first time in the past quarter. These articles had previously been bought through Spain or England. Through the distribution by this consulate of circulars forwarded by various American firms, together with copies of the American Grocer, a trial order for American canned goods was placed with a New York commission house. There is little doubt of the market here once the superiority of American canned goods is actually demonstrated.

As a result of cooperation between consulate and salesman, the traveling representative of a Boston shoe manufacturer booked \$3,000 worth of orders in two days. Negotiations for the Teneriffe agency for the Ocean Transportation Co., of New York, were carried on through this consulate and by a liberal use of the cable were successfully arranged in a week. The sale of an American vacuum cleaner to the city of Teneriffe was held up through inability to agree on terms until this consulate hit upon a solution satisfactory to both buyer and seller.

It is thought worth while to mention here the action of this office in connection with a letter sent by the Merchants' Association of New York, in which the offer was made to furnish any information desired concerning business men of New York, as well as those interested in articles exported from the Teneriffe district. These two questions being constantly asked by firms in this district, a translation was made of the merchants' association's letter and published in the leading journals in each of the islands. A like offer by the Chicago Association of Commerce was also published in this district. Similar action by trade bodies in all important commercial centers would help the Consular Service to put exporters to the United States in touch with American buyers in just the right way.

HABANA A FLYLESS TOWN.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The visitor from the United States can not fail to be impressed with the absence of flies in Habana. A fly is a real rarity—so is a mosquito—and screens are not at all a necessity. The absence of these pests is simply the result of municipal cleanliness and care.

Illustrating the general understanding of the necessity to watch out for breeding sources, Mounted Officer Pedro Sierra reported November 30 to the chief of sanitation that he had observed a plant in the Vedado (residential district) that apparently was a source of flies. The plant has a fruit resembling a fig, in which, Sierra asserts, larvae are to be found. He conducted some experiments himself, becoming convinced that the plant afforded a breeding place for the pests; then he so reported. If the experiments of the Department of Sanitation confirm him, undoubtedly an order will be issued for the destruction of all such plants in and around Habana; and, incidentally, Officer Sierra will be rewarded.

There is no need for "fly-swatting campaigns" around the clean capital of Cuba. The sanitarians make flies an impossibility and confirm absolutely the doctrine that municipal cleanliness will prevent the appearance of flies altogether.

HIGH FREIGHT RATES TO SOUTH AMERICA.

With a tariff preference of 20 per cent in their favor, American cement manufacturers are not doing well in the Brazilian markets in competition with European exporters, who have been given an advantage in freight rates that more than offsets the preferential tariff. The freight rate from England to Pernambuco, for example, is \$9 per ton, while the rate from New York is \$12.

According to statistics furnished by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the imports of cement into Brazil have grown to important proportions in recent years. In 1913 the total imports for the country were valued at more than \$7,000,000, and this was an increase of approximately \$2,000,000 in a year's time. Of the 1913 imports, \$3,000,000 worth came from Germany, \$2,000,000 worth from England, \$900,000 worth from Belgium, and \$750,000 worth from the United States, other countries furnishing smaller amounts.

GROWING USE OF COTTONSEED MEAL IN ONTARIO.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Dec. 2.]

The following rules as to the use of cottonseed meal are being followed by the farmers of Ontario Province: 1. Hay, 10 pounds; cornstalks; wheat bran, 3 pounds; corn meal, 2 pounds; cottonseed meal, 2 pounds. 2. Corn silage, 30 pounds; hay, ad lib.; oats, 4 pounds; linseed meal, 2 pounds; cottonseed meal, 1 pound. 3. Hay, 20 pounds, cottonseed meal, 4 pounds; wheat bran, 2 pounds.

Cottonseed meal is gradually being substituted for the more expensive cattle foods, especially now when the cost of other feedstuffs has more than trebled and cottonseed meal has maintained a standard price.

GENERAL OPEN-MARKET OPERATIONS BY BANKS.

The United States Federal Reserve Board has issued Circular No. 20 and Regulation T, Series of 1915, relating to general open-market operations by banks. The board refers to several classes of transactions which have already been provided for in the circulars and regulations heretofore issued, and continues:

There remain still to be dealt with the purchase and sale of "cable transfers" and bills of exchange, both domestic and foreign, of the kinds and maturities by the Federal reserve act made eligible for rediscount, and bankers' acceptances payable in foreign countries and in foreign currencies. The present circular and regulation is intended to cover these items. The board wishes particularly to call attention to the purpose of the open-market section of the Federal reserve act. It enables the Federal reserve banks to exert a steadying influence upon prevailing rates of interest by the use of their purchasing power whenever conditions make such influence desirable, and when, owing to the lack of applications for rediscounts, they are unable to influence rates through the latter means. It also affords to the Federal reserve banks the opportunity of purchasing, in the open market, paper with a view to providing for their expenses and dividends. The board is of the opinion that the Federal reserve banks should, when occasion warrants, stand ready to engage in open-market transactions, as buyers or sellers, to the extent that it is necessary to carry out the purposes of the act.

The Federal Reserve Board does not wish to be understood as encouraging expansion of credits at times and under conditions when there should be contraction, but rather as holding the view that the Federal reserve banks, taking cognizance of the conditions in their respective districts, should avail themselves of the powers granted by the act as explained in our letter of October 8, 1915, just as they have done in connection with other open-market powers conferred upon them.

The board states that open-market transactions, as contemplated under the Federal reserve act, are all those transactions authorized by section 14 of the act which involve dealings with persons or institutions, whether or not members of the Federal reserve system, and which do not require the indorsement of a member bank. The regulation makes the provision:

In order to carry on open-market transactions in cable transfers and foreign bills of exchange (including foreign bankers' acceptances)—that is, payments to be made in or bills payable in foreign countries—it will be necessary for Federal reserve banks to open accounts with correspondents or establish agencies in foreign countries. Such bills of exchange and foreign acceptances must comply with the applicable requirements of sections 13 and 14. As the law prescribes that these connections are to be established only with the consent of the Federal Reserve Board, Federal reserve banks will be required to communicate with the Federal Reserve Board whenever they are ready to enter these foreign fields.

The Federal Reserve Board realizes that in dealing in foreign exchange the Federal reserve banks must necessarily have wide discretion in determining the rates at which they will buy or sell. It is not necessary that the bills shall have been actually accepted at the time of purchase. The Federal Reserve Board, however, will require that unaccepted "long bills," payable in foreign countries, when purchased, unless secured by documents, shall bear one satisfactory indorsement other than those of the drawer or acceptor, preferably that of a banker. Federal reserve banks should exercise due caution in dealing in foreign bills, and boards of directors should fix a limit within which the acceptances or bills of a single firm may be taken.

A full definition of a domestic bill of exchange is given, together with the statement of conditions under which it is eligible for purchase by a Federal reserve bank, and then the regulation makes this provision:

Before purchasing domestic bills of exchange, the Federal reserve bank must secure statements concerning the condition and standing of the drawer of the

paper, and, if possible, also of the acceptor of the bill, sufficient to satisfy the bank as to the nature and quality of the paper to be purchased.

No Federal reserve bank will be permitted to purchase bills of any one drawer, or issued upon any one maker to an amount to exceed in the aggregate a percentage of its capital, to be fixed from time to time by the Federal Reserve Board, except when secured by approved warehouse receipts, bills of lading, or other such documents covering readily marketable goods. The aggregate amount drawn on any one acceptor, purchased by Federal reserve banks, shall not exceed a reasonable percentage of the stated net worth of the parties whose names appear upon the paper.

Federal reserve banks desiring to engage in open-market transactions in domestic bills of exchange are required to communicate to the Federal Reserve Board the rate they desire to establish, for review and determination.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	..do....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	..do....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willlys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

CUBA CONTRACTS FOR NEWSPAPER SPACE.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

President Menocal has authorized Gen. Emilio Nuñez, Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, to expend a certain sum in advertising the Island of Cuba and its attractions in the United States. A contract has been signed with a Philadelphia newspaper for display advertising of an attractive character and reading matter, to run every Sunday for two and a half months, beginning in December. No further contracts are contemplated at this time. Special efforts are being made to bring the desirability of Cuba as a winter resort before the public of the United States. The tourists' season has already opened with somewhat increased numbers visitors.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

CANADA.

[Vice Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, Nov. 30.]

Customs Treatment of Gifts.

For the information of those desiring to send Christmas and other gifts to Canada it should be stated that such articles entering Canada are in general dutiable at the same rates as are similar articles imported for commercial purposes. An important exception affecting objects of slight value is, however, to be noted in the Canadian tariff (No. 690*), which provides for the free admission of the following articles: "Casual donations from abroad sent by friends and not being advertising matter, tobacco, articles containing spirits, or merchandise for sale—when the duty otherwise payable thereon does not exceed 50 cents in any one case—under regulations by the minister of customs."

There is no way of prepaying the import duty on articles sent to foreign countries except by arrangement with an express company, which, it is understood, will undertake the payment of customhouse charges on parcels forwarded to foreign destinations by express.

CUBA.

[Commercial Agent Garrard Harris, Nov. 20.]

Proposed Tariff Revision.

The President of Cuba, in his recent message to the Cuban Congress, submitting the proposed budget law for 1916-17, made reference to a number of projects which, if enacted, will considerably affect commercial relations between Cuba and the United States. A revision of the Cuban customs tariff is suggested, with the substitution of ad valorem rates of duty for the specific duties at present applicable to many products imported into Cuba, the tendency of such revision to be an increase in the rates on articles of luxury and a reduction in the duties on food products, low-priced clothing, etc. Another proposal is the imposition of export duties on sugar, the amount of such imposts to vary according to crop conditions, market price, etc. The levying of an export on raw mineral products has also been recommended and is of importance, in view of the fact that practically the entire amount exported, consisting chiefly of iron ore and copper ore, is marketed in the United States.

[Under the reciprocity treaty with Cuba, in force December 27, 1903, products from the United States are entitled to reductions ranging from 20 to 40 per cent of the duty of the rates applicable to products from other countries, and such reductions will not be affected by any revision of the Cuban tariff while the treaty remains in effect.]

[A copy of the commercial agent's report, which contains references to a number of other features of the proposed budget law, will be loaned by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

TURKEY.

[Consul General Gabriel Ble Ravndal, Sept. 22.]

Proposed Tariff Revision.

A special committee has been organized to consider the revision of the Turkish customs tariff, the intention being to substitute specific

duties of a protective character for the ad valorem rate of 30 per cent now applicable to practically all articles imported into Turkey. It is expected that the new tariff, now in preparation, will be put into effect upon the conclusion of peace by vote of the Turkish Parliament or, provisionally, by imperial decree.

[For previous notices regarding recent tariff changes in Turkey, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 15, p. 48, and No. 17, p. 127.]

THE 1914 CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES.

The United States Census Bureau is rapidly making public the results of its recent census of the manufacturing industries of the country relating to the calendar year 1914. The canvass began in January, 1915, and was completed soon after the 1st of August. Already 199 press summaries have been prepared. Of these, 153 relate to the manufactures of individual cities; 3 to the manufactures of individual States—Delaware, North Dakota, and Wyoming; 43 to steam laundries in individual States—all except California, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington; and 1 to the manufacture of automobiles in the United States as a whole.

Each of the city and State summaries contains one or two statistical tables, showing number of establishments, persons engaged, horsepower, capital, salaries and wages, cost of materials, value of products, and value added by manufacture. Comparative figures for 1909 and percentages of increase are also given. The tables in the city summaries cover all industries combined, and those in the summaries for the three States named cover all industries combined except steam laundries.

Anyone desiring these preliminary statistics for any city or State for which they have been issued, or for the automobile industry, may obtain them by addressing his inquiry to the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C.

REPORT ON AMERICAN COTTON INDUSTRY.

The United States Census Bureau has just issued Bulletin 131—Cotton Production and Distribution, Season of 1914-15. This bulletin, which contains 102 quarto pages, gives detailed statistics of production for the crop year 1914, of consumption for the cotton year ended July 31, 1915, and of imports and exports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915. The statistics also show, for each cotton-manufacturing State and for the United States as a whole, average prices of cotton and cotton seed for each year from 1910 to 1914, inclusive; number of ginneries, gins, and saws and kind of power used; number of spindles; and quantity and cost of cotton seed crushed and quantity and value of crude products manufactured. In addition, the world's production and consumption of cotton are shown. Comparative figures are given for earlier years. Anyone desiring a copy of this bulletin may obtain it by addressing the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C.

[A statement of the chief features of the publication, with some of the important facts brought out, was given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 26, 1915.]

IMPORTANT NEW MEXICAN OIL DECREE.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Tampico, Nov. 23.]

A decree of vital importance to all persons interested in Mexican oil companies was issued by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army on November 15. Under its stipulations only those companies or persons engaged in the oil industry in Mexico that file certain data in the Department of Petroleum, Division of Mines and Petroleum, within two months of its issuance shall have any legal existence in the Republic. A translation of the decree follows:

This Department, in order to comply with the decree issued in Vera Cruz on the 8th of January of the present year by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, charged with the executive power of the Nation, and taking into account—

That it is absolutely necessary to favor the public interests, which are frequently deceived by companies or individuals who claim to be proprietors of lands in the development of petroleum and its kindred substances, in many instances the existence of such companies being imaginary, or not uniting the indispensable conditions to guarantee the people who buy oil shares;

That similar companies of good faith, dedicated to the same purposes, suffer grave prejudices in their interests because of the lack of confidence infused into the public, not knowing the status of companies or individuals who propose the sale of oil shares or stock;

That it being necessary that the Government remedy these evil indications, and in order to apply all of the remedies which are at its command in order to give due impulse to an industry of such national importance, has decreed the following:

Information That Must be Filed.

First. Within the term of two months, counted from the date of this order, all companies or persons engaged in the oil industry shall register in the office of this department, and present a declaration in duplicate, on simple paper, containing the following data:

- (a) The name of the company or persons interested in oil matters.
- (b) The headquarters and offices or branch offices in other parts of the Republic.
- (c) The capital invested.
- (d) If an incorporated company, furnish the following:
 - I. Under what laws the company is organized.
 - II. Who are the organizers of the company.
 - III. Who are the directors and the board of management at the present time.
- (e) Properties:
 - I. Number of lots, their location, designating the hacienda, municipality, Canton, District, and State.
 - II. Area occupied; date of acquisition.
 - III. Place where the contract was recorded and the person who made the sale.
- (f) Leases:
 - I. Enumeration of the lots.
 - II. Their location, citing the hacienda, municipality, Canton, District, and State.
 - III. Area of the land.
 - IV. Owner of the land.
 - V. Duration of the contract.
 - VI. Conditions of the lease.
 - VII. Date of the lease and place where it was recorded.
- (g) Camps:
 - I. Their name and location.
 - II. Number of proposed wells.
 - III. Number of wells in course of drilling.
 - IV. Number of producing wells.
 - V. Depth of each well.
 - VI. Production of each well.

(h) **Pipe lines:**

- I. Location and description of the installations.
- II. Length and diameter of the pipes.
- III. Their daily capacity for conveyance.
- IV. Location, name, and number of pumping stations.
- V. Number of tanks for the storage of oil, their location, capacity, and the material of which they are constructed.

Forfeiture of Rights.

Second. The persons or companies failing to present said declaration for the registration in this department within the time indicated will not be recognized as having any legal existence, nor will they be granted the respective permission for the exploration and exploitation of petroleum, in conformity with the decree of January 8, of this year, already mentioned.

There are now over 250 companies organized in the Tampico district, but only a very small percentage of this number are operating. The others have acquired leases and have representatives scattered over the United States selling stock in order to raise money to commence drilling operations. Many of these companies have no representatives at all in Tampico, and for their benefit this decree should be given as much publicity as possible.

MILKING MACHINES IN CANADA.

[Consul O. Gaylor Marsh, detailed as vice consul at Ottawa, Nov. 22.]

On account of the difficulty encountered by Canadian dairy farmers in obtaining and training dairy laborers and on account of the growing demand for clean milk throughout the Dominion, the question of the use of mechanical milkers is receiving increased attention. While dairying is a very prominent industry of Canada, in the use of milking machines the Dominion has fallen far behind some other portions of the British Empire, particularly England, Scotland, Australia, and New Zealand.

As a result of the above conditions the Experiment Farm System, headed by the Central Experiment Farm at Ottawa, has been conducting experiments with a view to determining, and probably publishing reports on, the machines which combine the greatest number of the desirable qualities of simplicity, cheapness, durability, ease in cleaning, minimum requirement of manual labor, minimum cost of operation, minimum power for operation, and freedom from injury to animals. This may lead to their increased use in Canada, and it would therefore seem advisable for American manufacturers to take steps to make the merits of their machines known in order to be in a favorable position to claim an appropriate share of any new trade that may develop.

FRANCE SENDS TRADE COMMISSIONER TO VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Nov. 20.]

With the object of beginning an active campaign for advertising French products, the Government of that country has sent Mr. J. Duhaut on a special mission to Venezuela. The commissioner is well known in Venezuela, is an engineer who at various times has made explorations in the interior of the country, and has published accounts of his experiences. He is said to have several practical schemes under consideration, all of which involve the investment of French capital in Venezuela.

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

The following tables show the quantity of each of the principal commodities and the number of passengers carried through the United States and the Canadian Sault Ste. Marie (Soo) Canals during November and for the season, until November 30, 1914 and 1915:

[From a report of the United States engineer in charge of the United States canal at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.]

FOR NOVEMBER.

Articles.	United States Canal.		Canadian Canal.		Total, both canals.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	23,998	32,999	456	984	24,454	33,983
Grain.....bushels..	10,254,796	12,331,768	4,681,233	8,006,592	14,936,019	20,338,360
Flour.....barrels..	883,819	947,250	334,023	444,610	1,221,841	1,391,869
Iron ore.....short tons..	1,001,167	3,764,125	114,612	790,842	1,115,779	4,494,967
Lumber.....M ft. b. m..	34,940	30,538	3,120	4,905	38,060	35,443
Wheat.....bushels..	18,814,968	57,431,610	13,955,255	17,257,077	32,770,253	74,388,687
General merchandise, short tons..	12,995	32,864	3,585	8,052	16,580	40,916
Passengers.....number..	18	21	274	119	292	140
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	318,844	214,208	20,500	19,500	339,344	233,708
Soft.....do.....	805,763	1,307,758	62,619	35,490	868,382	1,343,248
Manufactured iron.....do.....	14,563	16,415	7,970	2,782	22,535	19,197
Salt.....barrels..	86,369	62,914	13,993	5,096	100,362	68,010
General merchandise, short tons..	69,603	93,154	51,862	50,892	121,468	144,046
Passengers.....number..	4	7	132	57	136	64
Total freight:						
Eastbound, short tons..	2,007,450	5,895,580	670,235	1,522,487	2,677,685	7,418,067
Westbound.....do.....	1,221,733	1,640,972	144,950	109,392	1,366,683	1,750,364
Both ways.....do.....	3,229,183	7,536,552	815,185	1,631,879	4,044,368	9,168,431
Vessel passages.....number..	950	1,880	405	576	1,355	2,456
Registered tonnage.....net..	2,138,779	5,721,516	659,637	1,241,470	2,798,416	7,065,986

8 MONTHS ENDING NOV. 30.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	82,151	132,812	2,887	18,622	85,038	151,634
Grain.....bushels..	33,433,436	33,355,599	30,989,093	22,176,964	64,412,519	55,533,563
Flour.....barrels..	7,207,911	5,459,699	2,144,392	2,596,228	9,352,303	8,055,927
Iron ore.....short tons..	10,516,927	41,062,735	20,893,142	4,040,424	31,410,069	45,133,289
Iron, pig.....do.....	14,179	8,870	4,160	6,770	18,379	15,640
Lumber.....M ft. b. m..	425,109	407,925	21,129	43,870	446,238	451,796
Wheat.....bushels..	48,041,815	150,931,702	34,052,351	55,383,057	142,094,166	206,314,769
General merchandise, short tons..	167,970	191,425	71,691	117,328	239,871	308,753
Passengers.....number..	15,584	12,834	13,147	13,053	28,731	25,887
WESTBOUND.						
Coal, hard.....short tons..	1,844,768	1,884,497	321,787	58,133	2,166,555	1,942,630
Coal, soft.....do.....	10,185,259	10,689,046	2,005,457	403,448	12,191,716	11,092,594
Manufactured iron, short tons..	161,172	157,042	57,598	20,670	218,758	177,712
Iron ore.....short tons..		1,500	3,096		3,696	1,500
Flour.....barrels..	512	100	150		662	100
Salt.....do.....	674,212	639,690	77,405	31,906	751,618	671,596
Grain.....bushels..		31,250		373		31,623
General merchandise, short tons..	682,348	948,798	366,470	288,381	1,048,818	1,237,179
Passengers.....number..	14,176	12,541	16,822	11,854	30,996	24,395

8 MONTHS ENDING NOV. 30—Continued.

Articles.	United States Canal.		Canadian Canal.		Total, both canals.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915
Total freight:						
East bound...short tons...	14,424,495	47,939,557	24,651,755	6,617,684	39,076,250	54,557,241
West bound.....do.....	12,974,729	13,777,348	2,767,069	775,290	15,741,798	14,552,644
Both ways.....do.....	27,399,224	61,716,905	27,418,824	7,392,980	54,818,048	69,109,885
Vessel passages.....number...	12,410	16,440	6,010	4,154	18,420	20,594
Registered tonnage.....net...	24,456,592	46,730,753	17,182,257	8,197,491	41,638,849	54,928,244

NOTE.—The United States canal opened on Apr. 20, 1914, and on Apr. 17, 1915. The Canadian canal opened on Apr. 20, 1914, and on Apr. 13, 1915.

RESTRICTIONS ON BRITISH VESSELS.

The American consulate general at London has transmitted a copy of a proclamation appearing in the London Gazette of November 9, 1915, restricting the movements of British vessels. The order provides that after December 1, 1915, no British steamer registered in the United Kingdom of gross tonnage exceeding 500 tons shall carry any cargo from one foreign port to another, whether or not such vessel calls at an intermediate British port, unless the owner or charterer of the ship has been granted exemption by license, such license to be granted by a committee appointed by the president of the board of trade. A foreign port is defined to mean any port outside the United Kingdom and British dominions.

[A copy of the proclamation will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

INVAR METAL PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Invar metal, an alloy of nickel and steel, valuable for many purposes on account of its extremely low coefficient of expansion, which is only about one twenty-fifth that of steel, hitherto has not been manufactured commercially in this country. Tapes of this metal for use in base measurement have been obtained from England as required. This has been the cause of some delay and inconvenience. The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey is informed that a manufacturer in the United States is now prepared to furnish this metal in any quantities desired. The name of the manufacturer may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 923 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

VARIETIES OF PEACHES IN CONSTANTINOPLE DISTRICT.

[Consul General G. Ble Ravndal, Constantinople, Turkey, Oct. 6.]

Peach growing in the region about Constantinople is confined to the Bosphorus orchards and certain districts on the Marmora Sea, especially Brusa, with its abundantly watered, low hinterland. The requisite mild climate prevails throughout the year in these sections.

The Brusa peach is an early fruit, very juicy, and rich in flavor. Its weight averages 7 ounces. It is called here "etli," which means fleshy, and possesses the distinctive feature that the meat of the fruit firmly adheres to the kernel, so that the peach can not be parted in two with a little pressure of the fingers, as is the case with other varieties. It is the best peach produced in this district. The season is now over, and neither peaches nor kernels of this variety can be obtained in Constantinople.

The Bosphorus peaches may be divided into two kinds—the "yaz-sheftelissi," or summer peach, and the "sari-papa," or yellow peach. The summer peach, as its name implies, is an early-season variety which, if properly cultivated, weighs up to 6 ounces. The predominant color is dark red, shading into pale yellow-green. The most succulent peaches are obtained during the first three years. Older trees yield more fruit, but it is harder, drier, and less tasty. In the peach itself the central part in contact with the kernel is blood red in the case of old fruit, and yellow-pink, light red speckled in the case of younger fruit.

Yield of Healthy Tree Estimated by Peach Orchardists.

According to the local growers' observations, a healthy tree will yield between 140 and 290 pounds of summer peaches. These are not attacked by worms and other parasites as readily as the sari-papa, a winter variety, the kernels of which are very often split open and worm eaten. This variety is usually softer than the summer peach, less juicy, and more mealy. The predominant color is yellow, with red. It is exceptionally aromatic, and has a flavor similar to apricots. The full-grown peach weighs from 3 to 5 ounces.

According to the native growers, peaches dry if the weather is too cold. They grow best on black earth, and in order to become full-grown require abundant water and frequent care. Local cultivators plant, early in November, a number of full-grown selected peaches or their kernels in a small space of about 4 square feet. The offshoots appear in March. They are left for a year, during which the surrounding earth is frequently dug and watered. Then the young nurslings are transplanted and scattered over the field, where, for another year, they require constant attention. The following year the first fruit is yielded.

The trunk of the tree, as a rule, reaches between the second and third year a diameter equal to that of the full-grown fruit it bears. Generally the trees are cut when between 6 and 8 years old, a stage at which the fruit they bear is no longer palatable. Grafted peaches can not be used for seed purposes.

Lists of importers of fresh fruit, and of provisions and groceries, in Bahia, Brazil, have been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from Special Agent W. Fischer, and may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 789.)

CONNECTING EUROPEAN AND ASIATIC RUSSIA BY SEA.

[London Times Russian Supplement, Oct. 30.]

The Russian Hydrographic Expedition, under Capt. B. A. Vilkitsky, succeeded on September 16, 1915, in reaching Archangel by sea from Vladivostok. It is claimed that the expedition has demonstrated the navigability for merchantmen of the eastern part of the Arctic Ocean, which, from Bering Sea to the mouth of the Lena, had previously been but little explored; and it is further to the credit of the Russian navigators that they are the first to complete the westward passage of the most difficult route from the Lena to the mouth of the Yenisei.

Another important task carried out by the expedition is the verification of the working of the wireless system established on the northern coast of Asia and of the principal transmission station at Mara-Salc. Both Dr. Nansen and Mr. S. V. Vostrotnin have pointed out the necessity and value of this system for navigation of the northern route. In this connection it is worthy of special note that the expedition in great measure owes its success to its employment of wireless, thanks to which it was generally able to keep in touch with the mainland.

Utility of the Route.

Without in any way seeking to detract from the magnificent performance of Capt. Vilkitsky and his gallant coadjutors, the well-known Russian artist Borisov, in the *Novoe Vremya*, administers a well-deserved rebuke to those over-enthusiastic persons who, on the strength of this successful cruise, have been at special pains to declare that it proves the utility of the northern passage for commercial and naval purposes. Though available for vessels engaged in the fur trade, for scientific expeditions, and for sportsmen, the writer confidently asserts that centuries may pass and this route will still remain closed to commercial navigation. These strictures of M. Borisov do not refer to the Kara Sea and Yenesei route, the practical character of which for commercial purposes has been entirely demonstrated.

Successful Kara Sea Expedition.

The steamers *Haugastoel* (3,100 tons) and *Eden* (2,000 tons) of the Siberian Steamship, Manufacturing & Trading Co. (Ltd.) started from Tromso on September 7 for the Ob and Yenesei Rivers, respectively, where they received cargoes of butter, hemp, flax, etc., which were landed at Grimsby. The *Haugastoel* reached Tromso on the return voyage 19 days after it set out; the *Eden* took 5 days more. This was the fourth annual expedition to the Kara Sea, and the first that included the visit to the Ob. As this river has a much larger fleet than the Yenisei, it is possible to tap the richest district of central Siberia. Preparations are being made for sending out a very large expedition next year, when it will be possible to relieve Siberia of its large surplus stock of grain, butter, hides, hemp, flax, and linseed. The steamers will leave England in July and return in September.

A Lisbon firm has placed orders for \$45,000 worth of American leather as the result of a Trade Opportunity transmitted by Consul General W. L. Lowrie, of that Portuguese city.

SHIPPING FACILITIES BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

The following table shows the steamship companies in service between the United States and South America, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Vladivostok, the port of sailing and the port of destination, and other information:

UNITED STATES TO SOUTH AMERICA.

Line.	Port of sailing.	Ports of destination.	Average sailing time.	Approximate tonnage.	Refrigerating facilities.	Number of sailings.
Lamport & Holt Line.	New York	Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Montevideo, Buenos Aires.	22 to 24 days to Buenos Aires.	67,000	5 vessels, 56,500 tons.	Biweekly.
Do.	do	Buenos Aires.	24 days.	7,000	None	Monthly.
Norton Line.	do	Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Rosario.	24 days to Montevideo.	Varies.	do	Triweekly.
Barber Line.	do	Montevideo, Buenos Aires, La Plata, Santa Fe.	24 days to Montevideo.	14,000	1 steamer, 6,000 tons.	Two a month.
Houston Line.	do	Montevideo, Buenos Aires, La Plata, Rosario.	23 days to Montevideo.	64,000	None	Do.
Prince Line.	do	Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Montevideo, La Plata, Buenos Aires, Rosario.	22 days to Rio de Janeiro.	30,000	do	Do.
Do.	New Orleans.	Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and other Brazilian ports.				Occasionally.
Funch Eyde & Co.	New York	Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Rio Grande del Sul, San Francisco do Sul.	22 days to Rio de Janeiro.	62,000	None	Triweekly.
Royal Dutch West India Mail Line.	do	Curacao, Puerto Cabello, La Guaira, Cumana, Carupano.	13 days to Curacao.	33,000	do	Biweekly.
Booth Line (including Iquitos Steamship Co.)	do	Para, and other Brazilian ports.	27 days to Para.	52,000	do	Three a month.
Do.	do	Peru.				Biweekly.
American & Rio Plate Line.	do	Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Rosario, La Plata.	27 days to Montevideo.	10,000	None	Biweekly.
Lloyd Brasileiro Line.	do	Peru.	(18 days to Montevideo, 16 days to Pernambuco, 16 days to Pernambuco (passenger).)	55,500	3 vessels, 21,000 tons.	Three a month.
Do.	do	Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Santos.				Occasionally.
New York & South America Line.	do	Pernambuco.	11 days to Callao.	5,000	None	Triweekly.
Quebec Steamship Co.	do	Peru, Chile (Colombia occasionally).		28,000	None	Occasionally.
Merchants Line.	do	Demerara.	17 days to Demerara.	16,000	1 vessel, 6,000 tons.	Every 10 days.
Do.	do	Bahia Blanca, Port Madryn.	30 days to Bahia Blanca.	76,000	None	Once 6 to 8 weeks.
Do.	do	Guayaquil and west coast ports.	12 to 13 days to Guayaquil.		do	Two a month.
Do.	Seattle.	West coast ports.				One or two a month.
West Coast Line.	New York	Chile and Peru.	14 days to Callao.	(b)	None	No schedule.
Red "D" Line.	do	Curacao, La Guaira, Puerto Cabello.	8 days to Curacao.	8,300	None (only for ship's use).	Weekly.
Caribbean & Southern Line.	New Orleans.	Montevideo, Buenos Aires, La Plata.	31 days to Montevideo.	6,000	None	Monthly.
Do.	Mobile.	Demerara.		2,500		Do.
United States & Brazil Steamship.	New York	Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Santos (Bahia once a month only).	17 days to Bahia.	64,000	1 vessel, 8,000 tons.	Semi-monthly.

Munson Line.....	Mobile (coast-ally Pensacola).	Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Rosario.	30 days to Montevideo	55,000	None	Monthly.
United Fruit Co.....	New York	Cartagena, Puerto Colombia, Santa Marta.	9 days to Cartagena.	18,000	All refrigerated.	Weekly.
Commercial South American Line.....	do	Fernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and other Brazilian ports.	32 days to Rio de Janeiro.	10,000	None	Monthly.
Pan American Argentine Steamship Co.	New Orleans	Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Rosario.				Do.
UNITED STATES TO DENMARK, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, AND SWEDEN.						
Northern Transport Line.	New York	Göteborg, Copenhagen.	15 days to Göteborg.	15,000	None	Three a month.
Wilson Line.....	do	Copenhagen, Göteborg, Christiania (transshipment at Hull to own boats).	17 days to Copenhagen	175,000	All	Weekly.
Swedish-America-Mexico Line.	do	Göteborg.	17 days to Göteborg.	Varies.	None	Do.
Do.	Boston, Philadelphia, Galveston, Newport News, New Orleans.					Monthly.
Sweden-Norway Line.	New York	Göteborg.	19 days to Göteborg.	22,000	Limited.	Do.
Norwegian-America Line.	do	Christiania, Bergen, Stavanger, Christiansand.	14 days to Bergen.	50,000	Limited (passenger).	Weekly.
Scandinavian-American Line.	do	Christiania, Copenhagen.	10 to 11 days to Christiania.	Varies.	None	Four or five a month.
Do.	Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore.					Monthly.
Holland-America Line.	New York	Rotterdam.	8 to 9 days to Rotterdam.	Varies.	None	Nine a month.
Do.	Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Newport News, Savannah.					Monthly.
UNITED STATES TO VLADIVOSTOK.						
Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	New York		64 days via Cape Good Hope.	30,000.	None.	Three in two months.
Frank Waterhouse & Co.	Seattle.		25 days.	72,000.	do	Four a month.
Joint service: Barber Line, American & Oriental Line, American & Manchurian, American & Asiatic S. S. Co., Indrag Line (Ltd.).	New York		70 to 75 days via Cape Good Hope, 80 via Panama Canal.	75,000.	do	Every two weeks.

^a Steamers are chartered and number and tonnage varies constantly. Steamer despatched in October, 7,900 tonnage.
^b Indefinite, now chartering a boat. ^c Constant change in number and size of chartered vessels.
^d One boat.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

- Pharmaceutical products*, No. 19519.—A firm in France informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of pharmaceutical products with a view to purchasing 551 pounds of iodide of sodium and 2,204 pounds of iodine.
- Catalogues*, No. 19520.—An American consular officer in Siberia reports that there is a demand for catalogues in the Russian language, if possible. Prices should be in rubles and c. i. f. Vladivostok.
- Hardware, etc.*, No. 19521.—A letter to the bureau from a company in Russia states that it is desirous of communicating with manufacturers of hardware and materials for building wagons. It is requested that catalogues, prices, and discounts be forwarded.
- Oxygen bottles, aluminum, etc.*, No. 19522.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commission agent in Norway who desires to correspond with manufacturers of steel oxygen bottles, aluminum, wire metals, glassware, hardware, hosiery, etc. More detailed information may be obtained from the bureau or its branch offices.
- Chemicals*, No. 19523.—A company in England informs an American consular officer that it desires quotations on the following chemicals for shipment to India: Tannic acid, chrome alum, calcium chloride, sulphate of alumina, and numerous others. Full information in regard to this opportunity may be obtained from the bureau or its branch offices. Bank references and cable address are given. (Refer to File No. 69449.)
- General representation*, No. 19524.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a man in his district desires to correspond with manufacturers of iron and steel products, with a view to representing them.
- Telephonic plant*, No. 19525.—A report from an American consular officer in Ecuador states that a new telephone system is to be installed in one of the large cities of that country. Specifications and full information may be obtained from the bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 69511.)
- Coffin fittings*, No. 19526.—A firm dealing in funeral supplies informs an American consular officer in England that it desires to communicate with manufacturers of coffin fittings, with a view to securing brass, electrobrass, and nickel-silver fittings for coffins.
- Jute*, No. 19527.—A letter to the Bureau from Porto Rico states that a firm desires to correspond with manufacturers of jute which is spun and ready for weaving. Sample of the material wanted may be inspected at the Bureau and its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 80.)
- Chemicals, hosiery, etc.*, No. 19528.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from India stating that a company desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of chemicals, such as Glauber's salt, Epsom salt, etc., cotton and woolen hosiery for women and children, silk goods, and stationery.
- Diamonds and carbons*, No. 19529.—A letter to the Bureau from a firm in England states that it can supply diamonds and carbons (black diamonds) for any industrial or mechanical purpose. It is stated that these goods are used in the following trades: Drilling diamonds and precious stones, by glaziers, emery-wheel works, artesian-well boring, and for dental purposes, etc. Bank references given.
- Sugar machinery and machine tools*, No. 19530.—Supplementing Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 19451, an American consular officer in Brazil forwards full information and details in regard to same, which may be obtained at the Bureau or its branch offices.
- Hosiery*, No. 19531.—An American consular officer in France reports that a general importer and exporter desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of hosiery for women and children. The inquirer states that purchases will be made on a cash basis. Correspondence may be in English.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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SPAIN'S REVENUE FROM SALES OF TOBACCO.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 15.]

The *Economia Nacional*, published in Madrid, states that Spain, during the first ten months of 1915, has collected as internal revenue tax on sales of tobacco the sum of 178,970,000 pesetas (\$34,541,210), which is about 4,000,000 pesetas less than for the first ten months of 1914. During the month of October, 1915, the tax amounted to 18,396,316 pesetas, as against 18,046,734 pesetas in October, 1914—an increase of 349,582 pesetas.

LABOR-SAVING MACHINERY IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 5.]

New Zealand conditions have produced a demand for labor-saving machinery. The *Wellington Post*, a leading daily, says:

There is always the alternative of milking by machinery, which is now well past the stage of experimenting. Consequently new machines are being installed everywhere, and thus it is hoped to cope with the situation. Other labor-saving devices are also becoming more popular, and it may be that the war will cause quite a revolution in the methods adopted by the man of the land.

It is clear that there will be a greater demand for harvesting machinery in New Zealand this season than ever before, for the crop outlook is good.

RECEIPTS OF FISH AT NEW ENGLAND PORTS.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries reports that the fishing fleet landing fish at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., in November, 1915, included 240 steam and sail vessels. These vessels during the month landed 357 trips at Boston, aggregating 6,067,274 pounds of fish, valued at \$228,892; at Gloucester, 453 trips, aggregating 5,625,438 pounds, valued at \$133,096; and at Portland, 124 trips, amounting to 731,834 pounds, valued at \$27,902. The total for the three ports during the month was 934 trips, aggregating 12,424,546 pounds of fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$389,890.

SEASON'S INCREASE OF AIDS TO NAVIGATION IN ALASKA.

During the past summer season, up to the close of November, 1915, 30 new lighted aids and 16 unlighted aids, 46 in all, were established in Alaskan waters. These are located at the following points:

Flashing acetylene lights (24): Lewis Reef, Tongass Narrows; Narrow Point and Middle Point, Clarence Strait; Point Alexander, Wrangell Strait; Marmion Island and Sheep Creek, Gastineau Channel; Clear Point, Barlow Islands, Naked Island, Little Island, and Low Point, Lynn Canal; Kingsmill Point, Point Augusta, Hawk Inlet Entrance, and Hawk Inlet East Shoal, Chatham Strait; Otsoia Island and McClellan Rock, Peril Strait; Grey Cliff, Anchor Point, East Forelands, East Chugach, Flat Island, and Race Point, Cook Inlet; and Point Romanoff, Norton Sound (changed from oil).

Electric light (1): Sitka Harbor.

Float Light (1): Blunt Point Reef, Wrangell Strait.

Lens lantern, oil (1): Tenakee, Chatham Strait.

Post lights (3): Beck Island, Clarence Strait; Rose Inlet, Tlevak Strait; and Akutan Harbor, Aleutian Islands.

Beacons (4): Fish Creek Dolphin, Tongass Narrows; False Point Retreat, Lynn Canal; Deep Bay Entrance, Peril Strait; and Priest Rock, Unalaska Bay.

Buoys (12): 8 nuns, 3 cans, and 1 spar.

Five more lights will probably be established during this season.

Good progress was also made in the construction of the new light and fog-signal station at Cape St. Elias on Kayak Island. The illuminating and fog-signal apparatus have been on exhibition at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco, and will soon be dismantled and taken to Alaska for installation next season. The construction party, with the exception of a few men as watchmen and caretakers, left the cape on October 7, having completed during the season all reinforced concrete work in the tower, fog signal, storage building, and dwelling, except the first-floor slab of dwelling and a portion of the floor in the oil room. With favorable weather and labor conditions the station will probably be placed in commission during the season of 1916.

WELSH PURCHASES OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Swansea, Nov. 23.]

There is a large demand in Swansea for cheap and medium grades of accordions, violins, mandolins, and flutes. The Welsh are naturally a musical people, and despite war-time economies their demand for musical instruments is still pronounced.

Accordions of the variety formerly imported from Germany, at prices ranging from \$2.25 to \$12 each, are very difficult to obtain, and are in great demand. Many kinds are bought. The larger sizes, with expansive keyboards, are the most favored. Violins costing \$2.50 to \$15 are also needed, and there is a general shortage of bows and strings. Local dealers report that mandolins and flutes are required for the South Wales trade.

[Lists of the principal Swansea firms selling musical instruments may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69839.]

MOTOR-TRUCK MARKET IN CUBA ATTRACTIVE.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

There is a considerable present and future market in Cuba for motor trucks of every description. While the sale of pleasure cars has been large [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 19, 1915] and the market for them still presents good features, the use of motor trucks, delivery wagons, and the like has not kept a corresponding pace. At this time, when the island has just realized on a sugar crop of more than \$200,000,000 and the mills are grinding on a new crop that promises to exceed it in volume and in price, optimism prevails on all sides and prosperity is apparent generally, and the work of introducing new motor vehicles should meet with fewer difficulties than ordinarily.

The cost of feed for draft animals is high, practically all the grain and hay being imported. The arguments of lower cost of upkeep and greater delivery capacity in favor of power vehicles should appeal strongly to wholesale houses, importing concerns, breweries, factories, and stores and establishments making a specialty of prompt delivery, and it is likely that many sugar estates could use trucks to advantage. Moreover, there seems a fine prospect of developing a trade in motor busses. The streets of Habana are all well paved, and the rural roads throughout the island are good and are being extended.

Attempts to sell by mail are usually futile, and correspondence in English and catalogues in the same language a waste of time. Competent Spanish-speaking salesmen should be sent out, or arrangements should be made with Cuban firms to act as local representatives.

[A list of Habana automobile dealers and agents may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 802.]

CUBA TO DEVELOP DOMESTIC POULTRY INDUSTRY.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

A really modern chicken ranch is now being established by President Menocal. It is his intention to experiment, find the best adapted chickens for Cuba, and then distribute eggs of fine birds of this variety at absolute cost, in order to help his people get started on raising more food for home consumption. Cuba now imports more than 6,000,000 dozen eggs annually.

[Photographs of a modern chicken ranch, "El Chico," owned and operated by President Mario G. Menocal, of Cuba, and located at El Cano, about 10 miles from Habana, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 799.]

CHARTS SHOWING CHILE EXCHANGE FLUCTUATIONS.

In the report of Mr. W. H. Lough on "Banking opportunities in South America" there appears a chart showing graphically the fluctuations in London-Chile exchange during the last 10 years. Several reprints of this chart have been obtained as separates and a limited number will be distributed free on request.

FANCY POULTRY, SUPPLIES, AND EGGS FOR CUBA.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The island of Cuba is a considerable consumer of eggs and does not supply nearly enough for local needs, although the climate and land are in many ways ideal for poultry raising and the production of eggs on a commercial scale.

In 1913 there were imported 6,951,083 dozen eggs, valued at \$1,124,281 and paying duties that aggregated \$192,013; in 1914 there were 5,494,897 dozen eggs imported, valued at \$1,213,409 and producing a revenue of \$170,920 for the Cuban Government. Of this great quantity of eggs, in 1913, all came from the United States but 6,110 dozen, valued at \$2,383, which were imported from Mexico. In 1914 the Mexican importation rose to 64,674 dozen, valued at \$22,200. It is stated that the Mexican eggs can be purchased more cheaply than the American and are not storage stock. All but 150,000 dozen in 1913 and 98,921 dozen in 1914 were entered at Habana. Guantanamo and Santiago were the other two ports receiving shipments; Matanzas received only 34 dozen in two years.

The eggs imported are mainly "storage stock" and sell for 30 to 48 cents a dozen. Fresh or "yard" eggs are very scarce and are readily taken at 5 cents each, or 60 cents per dozen, and the supply is never adequate.

A "Live-at-Home" Propaganda—Poultry Raisers' Association.

The fact that Cuba annually spends vast sums for foodstuffs [in 1914 foodstuffs, including meats, fish, cereals, fruits, vegetables, milk products, oils, and beverages, formed \$46,867,795 of Cuba's total imports valued at \$119,001,410] has caused a "live-at-home" propaganda to be started, which is now much in favor in the public press. The first evidences that the movement is taking definite shape are seen in a considerable interest now displayed as regards poultry raising to supply the home market. In 1914 there were imported 4,324 fowls from the United States, mainly for breeding purposes, but in 1914 interest seems to have waned and the total importation was only two birds valued at \$15. In the early part of 1915 interest revived and has become more widespread.

There is a poultry raisers' association in Cuba, of which Señor D. Noguer, Calle Mercaderes No. 11, Cuarto No. 7, Habana, is the secretary and treasurer. [Mention of the organization of this society was made in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Nov. 11, 1912.] Señor Noguer is the owner of a poultry farm at Puerta Blanca, Guanabacoa, where he has over 2,000 hens, mainly white Leghorns, obtained from dealers in the United States. The Cuban Experiment Station (Estacion Experimental Agronomica, Santiago de las Vegas, Cuba), under the direction of Mr. J. T. Crawley, is also experimenting with various breeds, and has brought a considerable number of fine chickens from the United States, particularly 400 white Leghorns, 150 Rhode Island Reds, and 100 Langshans.

Experiments Undertaken by President of the Republic.

President Menocal in May last bought a 210-acre ranch near the little town of El Cano, 10 miles from Habana, and has fitted it up as a model poultry farm. He, too, is experimenting with various

breeds of chickens, among them being white and buff Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, buff Orpingtons, black Game, a very thrifty Spanish chicken called "Prats," Langshans, and others. The farm which is in charge of a poultry expert, is also stocked with many fancy varieties of chickens, pheasants, and the like.

President Menocal has primarily the patriotic intention of ascertaining which is the best all-around chicken for the use of the ordinary Cuban family; the best layer and the one most productive of flesh. This determined, he plans to distribute eggs of the variety so selected throughout the island at actual cost of production, in order to help establish a good strain of chickens and to encourage the people to raise more poultry and eggs at home. The consensus of opinion of chicken men at this time appears to be that the Rhode Island Red is perhaps the best all-around fowl, with buff Orpingtons as second choice. The Leghorns are not considered, as they are strictly a laying fowl and do not readily become broody, and hens that set are necessary to the country raisers of chickens who have neither the money to buy incubators nor the ability to operate them.

During the week of November 15-20 President Menocal received 700 white Leghorns from two New York State dealers. The fowls cost him on an average \$2.25 each in New York, and when transportation, duty, and handling had been paid the average cost was about \$3 each. Out of one shipment 69 per cent of the fowls were suffering from bad colds; some of them were very sick. The other shipment contained a large percentage of sick and droopy chickens also.

Should Offer Opportunity for Sale of Supplies.

Interest in poultry raising in Cuba is on the increase, and apparently the Republic offers a fine field for exploitation by poultry dealers of the United States. Literature in Spanish, nicely illustrated, should be used. There is no benefit whatever in sending catalogues or letters in English. It is a waste of time, postage, and material. Along with this opportunity for the sale of birds, which will become increasingly large, is that for the sale of combination and prepared poultry feeds, small grain, poultry remedies, incubators, brooders, and supplies of every kind from leg tags to crushed oyster shells.

The poultry business is new to Cuba, and there is no well-defined business of handling either the fowls or the supplies. [A list of Habana dealers who carry a partial line of supplies may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to file No. 777. Further information may also be had relative to the poultry raisers' association.]

Aside from supplying fine eggs for hatching, there is a very considerable future in the poultry-raising business in Cuba to furnish eggs and chickens for the local markets. The Cubans, in common with most tropical peoples, prefer to eat eggs and chickens rather than meat, and there will not be for many years a glutted market or a material decrease in prevailing prices for either eggs or poultry. A pullet ("pollita") for eating purposes brings 70 to 80 cents, and a grown hen 90 cents to \$1. Turkeys and ducks are also expensive food, and share with the chickens the opportunity for profitable returns.

OIL-BEARING SEEDS IN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Oct. 22.]

The second and more complete Government returns of the sowings of sesame (gingeli), in Madras Presidency, show a large increase over the area reported at the corresponding period of last year. Sowing rains were favorable throughout the whole of the north of the Presidency, except in Cuddapah. Moreover, especially in the Circars, there has been a tendency to substitute sesame this year for groundnut. Vizagapatam, Bellary, Anantapur, and Madura all report considerably larger areas than they did last year. The condition of the crop is almost universally reported as fair to good. In parts of Chingleput and South Arcot it is described as poor. The total area sown with sesame in 1915-16, till October 1, 1915, was 845,500 acres, of which 296,400 acres were early sowings and 549,100 acres were late sowings. The total represents an increase of 293,800 acres over the area sown with sesame in 1914-15 up to October 1, 1914, but a decrease of 16,500 acres from the average area during the last 5 years. On an average of the 5 years ended 1913-14, the area under sesame in the Madras Presidency has represented 16.6 per cent of the total area under sesame in British India.

Probable Decrease in Peanut Sowings.

On an average of the five years ended 1913-14, the area under peanuts in the Madras Presidency has represented 71.1 per cent of the total area under peanuts in British India.

According to the returns received by the Madras Government, the area sown with peanuts is put at 1,277,800 acres, as compared with 1,276,400 acres at this time last year. The final accounts for last year show, however, that the area under this crop in the Deccan and Central tracts had extended much more widely than was reported to be the case at sowing time. As compared with last year there is a general fall, which is most marked in the Circars and the Deccan, i. e., in the tracts where early sowings take place. By the latter end of July the price of peanuts had risen considerably; but it had fallen steadily during the first months of the year and, although rising in May, was still low. This affected all places where early sowings are the rule. In the Carnatic the decrease in area was about 12½ per cent. The average area sown in the last five years was 1,240,200 acres. The final accounts for 1915-16 will probably show that, as compared with the preceding year, there was a fall of about 25 per cent.

Oil-Pressing Industry at Madras.

The Director of Industries at Madras, in a report to the Madras Government published at the end of August, made the following statements:

My last report covered the period up to September. It will be remembered that the Government sanctioned the purchase of several seed-crushing plants to deal with the peanut problem, and at the time of my last report one of these plants had been bought and was in operation. The second has since been purchased and erected at Cuddalore. The third has not yet been bought, as no further machinery of this kind is on the market. Two similar machines were, however, purchased some time back by private individuals and these are affording facilities for crushing in the Coimbatore district. The purchase of a large oil mill was also sanctioned. This plant has been shipped in part.

As regards the peanut crop generally, the price before the outbreak of war was somewhat over 40 rupees per candy (about \$0.026 per pound). For several

years previous the demand had been so great that prices had risen steadily. The market rate in 1914 was greatly in excess of the cultivation costs, which may be estimated at 16 rupees per candy (\$0.01 per pound). On the outbreak of war prices began to fall, and with the temporary closure of the Marseille market the demand shrank tremendously.

The Director of Industries here recites various developments which resulted in the cessation of sales altogether, followed by an improvement in conditions at Marseille effected by negotiations between the British and French Governments allowing the shipment of 18,000 tons of poonac (oil cake) to Great Britain and other neutral countries. The report continues:

At the present moment the ruling price for nuts in Marseille is very little below what it was before the war. There has been a corresponding recovery in price in India, and nuts now stand at about 28 rupees per candy (\$0.018 per pound). This figure is substantially below what it was last year, but it is not to be hoped that it will materially improve, for the reason that the difference between the two figures is accounted for almost entirely by the change in freights and exchange.

In these circumstances I consider that the peanut question need not further engage the attention of the Government, and, furthermore, I propose to abandon what I have termed "protective" measures and shall not purchase the third expeller originally contemplated. The large oil mill under order will, however, be proceeded with, as this is a progressive rather than a protective measure, and the change in the situation has not affected this scheme at all.

RAILROAD RATES TO PAN AMERICAN CONGRESS.

Members of, or visitors to the Second Pan American Scientific Congress, to be held in Washington from December 27, 1915, to January 8, 1916, may obtain a reduced round-trip rate to the congress over the following railroads included in the Trunk Line Association, at a rate of 2 cents a mile in each direction: The Baltimore & Ohio; Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh; Central Railroad of New Jersey; Chesapeake & Ohio; New York Central Lines; New York, Ontario & Western; Pennsylvania; Delaware & Hudson; Delaware, Lackawanna & Western; Erie; Lehigh Valley; Philadelphia & Reading; Pittsburgh & Lake Erie; Western Maryland; and West Shore.

A special form of ticket will be on sale in the principal cities touched by these systems, December 25, 26, and 27, and must be used on the going trip within these dates. The return tickets must be used to return to the starting point not later than midnight, January 12. No such ticket will be sold for less than \$1, and visitors to any of the other political, economic, and scientific meetings and conventions to be held in Washington at the same time may secure the same rate. Similar reduced rates may be offered by railroads serving other territories, and further information may be obtained by addressing the office of the Secretary General, John Barrett, Washington, D. C.

Opening of Russian Railway.

The British consul at Batum reports that the Kahetian Railway, which was opened to limited traffic in January last, is now open to traffic of every description, having been officially declared incorporated in the Russian railway system.

TWO EXAMPLES OF FAULTY PACKING.

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, San José, Costa Rica, Oct. 25.]

The United States is now practically the only source of supply for electrical goods, but there is constant complaint regarding improper packing. Standard cases for domestic trade are used for export cargoes, and there appears to be no attempt or desire toward reducing tare when shipping to countries where gross-weight duties are imposed.

A leading American manufacturer last month shipped an electrical compensator and switch to a prominent dealer in San José. The contents weighed net 138 pounds, the gross weight of case was 250 pounds, and the volume of the package was three times greater than necessary. The dealer referred to incloses a printed slip with each order, and has repeatedly written letters on the subject to the offending exporter, but without results. The slip reads:

Important.—You must bear in mind that in Costa Rica all custom duties are very high and are charged by gross weight, the cases paying the same duty as the goods inclosed, so that the packing must be made very light, reducing the tare to the minimum, in order to avoid overcharges of duties and freights. If these instructions are followed the cost of the goods in the place of destination will be reduced in a considerable proportion, which permits us to sell at lower prices and more rapidly, thus procuring you more orders and increase of business. At same time, any excess of cubic measure must be avoided, for the reasons above stated.

A Matter of Paste Paints.

American paints and varnishes already mixed are making an impression, but the manufacturers of the United States seem to have failed utterly in the line of ground-in-oil paste paints. White-lead paste paints have heretofore been bought mostly from Europe, and the San José consulate has repeatedly tried to obtain a share of this trade for America. Special reports on the paint trade and many direct replies have explained in detail just what is needed. The American lead paste for mixing by the painter contains too much liquid for this market.

In filling a recent Costa Rican order a prominent American manufacturer shipped the ground-in-oil white-lead paste in drums with a snap or clamp cover—a style of container that does not withstand rough handling even when the drum is packed in a wooden case. Wire handles or bails were left on the drums and the whole shipment was packed in a heavy standard case. This useless tare weight caused an extra payment of \$18 gold on a shipment worth \$85.

This paste paint should be prepared with less liquid and then packed in drums with heads securely riveted to the steel drum. These drums should each be marked to customer and shipped loose, without being packed in the heavy case. The steel drum gives ample protection if the heads are attached as described, and the wire handles need not be supplied. Until these directions are followed Europe will continue to supply most of the ground-in-oil paint paste used in San José.

Figures submitted by Consul John Ball Osborne, of Havre, show that on November 4 there was 1,855,564 bags and 4,103 casks of coffee in the bonded warehouses of that French port. Of this stock, 1,188,706 bags were Santos and 423,851 bags other Brazilian coffee.

SOUTH AMERICAN VIEWS OF OUR EXPORT PRACTICES.

[Consul A. T. Haerberle, Pernambuco, Brazil, Nov. 1.]

As a result of interviews with business men of this city relative to American exports, it is possible to point out specific instances where our exporters have not given satisfaction, or where unfortunate misunderstandings have arisen. Unfortunately, many exporters do not pay sufficient attention to details, to a study of the market, the tariff, style of correspondence, or matters which, as anyone familiar with business conditions in Brazil will readily understand, cause dissatisfaction in some cases and annoyance in others. Trivial mistakes at home often become the source of delays, fines, and great inconveniences in this country.

Many of our firms engaged in foreign trade, and knowing all its intricacies, have to suffer for the sins of others who either commit errors through their inexperience or merely take foreign orders as a "side issue," and, therefore, do not care whether they give satisfaction or not. These careless firms, or those which unintentionally commit indiscretions, cause all the trade, with a few exceptions, to pass through the hands of a few firms in New York, and make entrance into this market almost impossible for manufacturers and exporters who are for the first time launching into foreign trade, but who do so after having equipped themselves with managers who know how to deal with the South American importer. Such firms, although a credit to our export trade, are not given a fair chance, because the merchants in Pernambuco are afraid to deal with unknown firms, and refer to such experiences with American firms as I have mentioned.

Erroneous Opinions Regarding American Export Trade.

There are many concerns in this city that are trying to establish business relations with American firms, but have had some erroneous opinions about our export trade. A well-known merchant of this city remarked: "I have seen a great many letters from American firms that wanted to do business with merchants of this city, but I never considered them." When asked why, he said: "Because your good firms have enough business to attend to at home. Only those that can't sell their products at home want to find foreign markets." This statement shows the prejudices we have to overcome. The cooperation of business organizations in endeavors to inspire greater confidence among the merchants of this consular district in our manufacturers and exporters is requested. They are urged to uphold this consulate in a practical way, if only in the form of a resolution, to start with, that their members will give careful attention to orders received from Pernambuco. This would be made known among the merchants of this city.

To Give Clear Idea of Pernambuco's Demands.

One of the reasons for conducting a series of interviews with the business men of this city is to give our exporters as clear a picture as possible of what the importers of Pernambuco want and require, so that our exporters may be in a better position to know whether or not it will pay them to write to firms in this city. One of the importers of cotton goods says that some time ago he desired to purchase cotton goods in the United States and asked for the weight of the material.

Without this knowledge no cotton goods can be sold in Pernambuco. The manufacturer replied that he had shown him the samples of the goods and refused to give him the weight. If our exporters of cotton goods learn what is required, it will help to eliminate useless correspondence of firms that do not wish to, or feel they dare not, meet the conditions of export trade.

The same principle applies to credit terms. If our exporters are once convinced that the merchants of Pernambuco will not, because they can not, agree to cash against documents in the United States before the delivery of goods, or even cash against documents in Pernambuco, it will mean the elimination of correspondence that leads to nothing. Would it not be possible for manufacturers who are not willing to give credit, but who demand cash and thus lose the trade, to make arrangements with some experienced commission house, or export house, and inform the foreign customer that such an arrangement has been made for him? That would constitute a basis for further negotiations.

Opinions Expressed Regarding American Exporters.

It is the expressed opinion of many of the importers of this city that "the exporters of the United States know little about the export business." Sometimes the statement is made outright, sometimes it is implied in relating their experiences with American firms. The interviews with merchants showed a startling number of complaints. They also revealed the discouraging fact that during the past six months virtually no business has resulted from the large number of trade inquiries received at this consulate and from the reports on trade opportunities transmitted by this consulate.

Last April a representative of a cement company visited this city and sold cement on 90 days' credit. A certain merchant gave him a fair trial order—several hundred barrels, I believe. Instead of the cement, the firm received a letter from the company stating that the terms were cash against documents in New York, but that in this case the company would make an exception and send the cement upon payment of freight and other expenses in New York and cash upon arrival in Pernambuco. The local merchant then ordered English cement. Another firm had a similar experience. A third house ordered cement at the same time (April or May) and has heard nothing from the company since—neither cement nor even a communication.

Uncertainty as to Whether or Not Orders Are Being Filled.

A firm ordered supplies from the United States. The goods arrived, but no draft. The firm wrote several letters, but received no reply. It then registered a letter to find out if the company was still in existence. The latter had been given other orders, and it is not known whether or not they are being attended to. Another firm sent for a catalogue from the United States. After studying the catalogue prices it asked for discount prices of certain articles it had decided to purchase. The discount prices were promised, but never received.

"If we have to pay cash," local merchants say in discussing the question of credit, "we will buy only what we have to, and hope to do business with Europe again after the close of the war. We have a good reason for this. We must do business on credit. Here in Pernambuco

most of our business is with the interior and we have to sell to our customers on credit. Another reason is the excessive customs charges, that would surprise some of the American manufacturers. Then comes the value of the stock itself, so that to pay cash really means working with three capitals—one for the customers, one for the customhouse, and one for the American exporter. One of the principal exporting firms of New York, one that does give long credits, lost the insignificant sum of about £25, which was gladly overlooked in view of the large business done here."

Practices Which Interfere with Growth of Trade.

Carelessness in the use of the cable, causing expense that should be unnecessary, misunderstandings due to wrong translations of orders, sending three invoices in one envelope, sending as advertising matter duplicates of packages in which the goods are put up, and the shipping of styles of hardware that are not wanted by the people are among the things cited by merchants as interfering with the growth of trade with the United States.

A leading hardware dealer stated that among the articles formerly purchased in Europe but now imported from the United States were glass, tin sheets, galvanized iron, and tools. Another dealer gives a list of articles, principally hardware, which have been imported from the various countries. These are:

From the United States: Tools, such as drill braces and drills, files, screws, saws, trunk material, leather, locks, fancy metal sheets, resin, oilcloth, arms, and ammunition.

Imported from England: Equestrian supplies, superior tools from certain manufacturers, tin sheets, zinc sheets, copper sheets, iron beds, and brass valves.

Imported from Germany: Light hardware, locks, bolts, pliers, hinges, hammers, hatchets, vise pins, sickles, anvils, furnaces, hoops, keys, scissors, compasses, chisels, saws, planes, numbered plates, lettered plates, mills, presses, shovels, spades, rakes, knives, punches, nipping tools, squares, iron and brass rings, chains, corkscrews, grindstones, rat traps, night candles, bells, hooks, chafing dishes, lanterns, candlesticks, lamps, strainers, egg beaters, molds, squeezers, meters, measuring tapes, spoons, glasses, basins, trays, salvers, stoves, bathtubs, buckles, spurs, stirrups, bridles, pomatum, thread, straw, gum, pencils, brushes, pipes, springs, knobs, padlocks, razors, pocket-knives, cages, strings, oilcloth, valves, filters, articles of nicked brass, enameled ware, paints, etc.

Imported from Portugal: Locks, sickles, hatchets, and axes.

One of the large cotton firms was interviewed. "Is there a demand for American cotton?" was asked. "Yes; but not for cheap cotton goods, as they are manufactured in the country."

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

GROWING CUBAN INTEREST IN HOG RAISING.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

Cuba consumes upward of \$10,000,000 worth of pork and pork products per annum, and as yet there has been no sustained effort to raise pork for the local demand or to establish a packing-house industry, although the country is in many respects ideal for raising hogs. There is an abundance of water, forage all the year, an equable climate, and, in addition, the widespread distribution of the royal palm tree insures a great quantity of the seeds, called "palmiche," which fall at all seasons of the year and are greatly relished by swine. The palmiche gives the meat a nutty flavor that is very fine indeed, and pork raised on this food is held in great esteem. The animals thrive on it amazingly.

In addition to the palmiche there are other foods growing wild—the guava, which hogs relish, and yuca roots, and many other tubers and roots. Mango trees are distributed over the island, and in season the ripe mangoes that fall are a considerable factor in the food supply. Sugar cane is eaten with avidity and is found to be remarkably satisfactory for putting flesh on hogs. Cow peas, peanuts, sweet potatoes, soya beans, and the like as special forage and grazing crops grow with little attention. Good land suitable for hog raising may be had for \$2.50 to \$10 per acre, becoming more expensive as the location is nearer the cities.

Breed—Improvement Efforts.

The native hog in Cuba is very much like the famed "razorback" of the southern pine woods—mostly head, legs, snout, and ears, swift of foot, but very hardy and thrifty, and does well without any care whatever. There is as yet practically no effort to raise hogs commercially except in small herds which range the woods in charge of a herdsman and his dogs. The meat of these semiwild hogs is in considerable demand on account of its flavor from the palmiche seeds, but the supply is not dependable, and no attempt is made to put it up as hams, bacon, ribs, or sides. This fresh pork sells at 8½ cents a pound the year around, and is scarce at times.

There has of late grown up in Cuba a sentiment in favor of producing more foodstuffs, and hog raising is receiving considerable attention. The Cuban Agricultural Experiment Station at Santiago de las Vegas is experimenting with various breeds and is in touch with the more progressive element which intends to devote attention to the growing of better pork. Cholera is known to some extent, but the most prevalent disease with which Cuban hogs are afflicted is called "pintadillo," and is supposed to be a mild sort of cholera. The Cuban Experiment Station is now seeking in the United States a competent chemist to make cholera serum and to study the diseases of native hogs.

Swine Imports—American Enterprise.

In 1913 Cuba imported 10,225 hogs, valued at \$127,328; in 1914, 9,816, valued at \$130,996. The United States furnished the entire number. Duroc-Jerseys, Berkshires, and Poland Chinas appear to be the favorites, and a cross between these and the native hogs makes

a thrifty animal which, if not ideal in shape from the packing-house standpoint, carries considerable meat and is a great improvement on the native wild hog.

Some capitalists of the United States are now projecting a hog ranch and packing house on 20,000 acres of land in Pinar del Rio Province, about 60 miles from Habana. It is proposed to commence with a capital of \$250,000.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.....	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Pock, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D.C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argen- tina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Com- merce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washing- ton, D. C.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

FOREIGNERS MAY MINE PLATINUM IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 17.]

Señor D. Domingo Orueta, who recently discovered in Spain very rich deposits of platinum, chromium, and nickel, has relinquished his claims to the Spanish Government. By royal decree, published to-day in the Gaceta de Madrid, official organ of the Spanish Government, the territorial limits of the mines are defined. Concessions to exploit the mines are obtainable from the Spanish Government, and these concessions are granted to foreigners as well as to Spanish subjects. Applications for such concession should be made to Señor Ministro de Fomento, Madrid, Spain. The deposits of platinum are said to be the richest in the world.

[A statement regarding the discovery of platinum in Spain was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 11, 1915.]

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Construction work, No. 2823.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 17, 1916, for the construction complete of the United States post office at Hackensack, N. J. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Hackensack or at the Treasury Department.

Sale of disused houses, No. 2824.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector at Boston, Mass., for the purchase of a disused dwelling and fuel house on lighthouse reservation, Spectacle Island, Boston Harbor. Further information may be had on application to the above office.

Subsistence stores, No. 2825.—Sealed proposals will be received at the offices of the Depot Quartermaster, Kansas City, Mo.; Omaha, Nebr.; and General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until December 20, 1915, for furnishing about 80,000 pounds of bacon.

Submarines, No. 2826.—Sealed proposals for constructing two seagoing fleet submarines Nos. 60 and 61 will be received at the Navy Department until February 16, 1916. A circular of requirements for said vessels and plans and specifications for their construction are now ready for distribution to prospective bidders. Forms of proposals and contract will be ready January 15, 1916.

Remodeling work, No. 2827.—Sealed proposals for remodeling building No. 52, Navy aeronautic station at Pensacola, Fla., will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 8, 1916. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the naval station named.

Construction work, No. 2828.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 18, 1916, for the construction complete, including mechanical equipment (except lighting fixtures) and approaches, for the United States post office at Anoka, Minn., and until January 19, 1916, for the United States post office at Hornell, N. Y. Plans and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at either site or at the Treasury Department.

Medical supplies, No. 2829.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until January 10, 1916, for 29 items of medical supplies. Items 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 22 may be examined at Medical Supply Depot, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, as well as at the above address, but items 4, 5, and 10 can only be examined at the Washington depot. Specifications will be furnished upon application.

Construction work, No. 2830.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 21, 1916, for the construction complete of the United States post office at Waterloo, N. Y., and until January 24, 1916, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at Ashland, Ky. Specifications and plans may be obtained from the custodian at each site or from the Treasury Department.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2831.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 22, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following: Steel angles and I beams, steel boiler tubes, steel cable, copper wire, steel locomotive pilots, manganese-steel car wheels, metallic lifeboats, cast-iron pipe, pipe

fittings, valves, cocks, wash-tray plugs, closet chain pulls, suction-hose strainers, lead bends, force cups, floor drains, brass ferrules, shower heads, pipe hangers, flush pipe, twist drills, water gauges, condulets, electric switches, Manila tags, pencils, and hypochlorite of lime. (Circular No. 995.)

Panama Canal supplies, No. 2832.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 29, 1915, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following: Bronze letters and numerals, structural bronze work, cutting-off machine, lathe, bolts, rivets, nuts, washers, lag screws, lead sleeves, cable terminals, electric cable, and wire. (Circular No. 996.)

SWANSEA MARKET FOR CLOCKS AND STATUETTES.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Swansea, Wales, Nov. 17.]

Owing to the closing of Continental sources of supply, Swansea dealers are experiencing great difficulty in securing stocks of bronze and marble clocks such as are known by the trade name of "Made-line." The more popular varieties have marble or bronze cases with plain or convex ivory dials and gilt centers and with one to four pillars on each side supporting sloping or fancy tops. The wholesale prices in England of these clocks range from \$2.25 for the plain 1-day variety, 5½ inches in height, to \$40 for the fancy French 14-day gong or chime clock of marble and bronze.

There is also a large local demand for bronze and composition statuettes and figures commonly used for niches, mantels, and to match fancy clocks. The bases are usually in imitation onyx, ebony, or marble, and the statuettes are from 6 to 25 inches in height. The prevailing wholesale prices range from \$2.50 to \$40. The figures most often seen represent historical or allegorical subjects.

The South Wales trade can best be served by c. i. f. quotations to Swansea, expressed in English currency, or through the medium of commission houses or agencies in London or the large English distributing centers. Direct communication from New York to Swansea is afforded by the Bristol City Line.

[A list of the Swansea firms selling clocks and statuettes may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69383.]

AMERICAN TEXTILES FOR SINGAPORE MARKET.

Commercial Agent R. M. Odell, who has recently been in Singapore investigating the markets for American cotton goods, reports that the representative of an American firm which acts as general representatives of American manufacturers in foreign fields has recently placed an order for \$3,000 worth of cotton goods, and states he believes additional business can be done. He has opened an office in Singapore and this is expected to be a factor in increasing materially the importation of American textiles. Mr. Odell is reporting fully on the situation and the information he sends will be published shortly after it is received by this Bureau.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **branch offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the **file number** given.

High-speed steel, No. 19544.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a company in his district, which is engaged in the manufacture of elevators and wheels of various kinds, requests cable quotations on high-speed steel "acier rapid." The telegraphic reply should be in French or Germany.

Forwarding agents, No. 19545.—A letter to the Bureau from a company in Switzerland states that it undertakes every kind of work connected with the warehouse business, such as distributing to the various purchasers, separating, mixing of all goods according to instructions, packing, labeling, etc., and requests that this information be given publicity for the benefit of American exporters.

Well-drilling machinery, etc., No. 19546.—A report from an American consular officer states that a company has been formed in an insular possession to exploit oil fields. As soon as \$25,000 has been raised from the sale of stock the company will purchase a well-boring outfit and proceed to exploit the property. It is stated that gasoline in that vicinity retails from 40 to 50 cents per gallon, and the discovery of oil would be of great commercial and economic value.

Fish oils, etc., No. 19547.—A business man in France informs an American consular officer that he desires to represent American exporters of fish oil, sultin, and sultine for use in the glove industry. Correspondence should be in French.

Prepared cattle foods, No. 19548.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that there is a possible market in that country for prepared cattle foods. The most effectual method of introducing the foods would be to send samples. An analysis of the samples should accompany price list, and the letters should be written in Spanish.

Fern cotton, No. 19549.—A firm in Honduras informs an American consular officer that it is seeking a market for fern cotton, which is obtainable in small quantities in that country. The product is a silky, brittle fiber, and may be used for stuffing purposes. Samples of the fern cotton may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 65624.) Correspondence may be in English.

Bottles and hides, No. 19550.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a business man in Ecuador desires names and addresses of manufacturers of bottles and tanners of hides. Quotations are asked on 1,000 black and white bottles, size $\frac{1}{2}$ liter, together with catalogues and other necessary information. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Tin-lined packing cases, No. 19551.—A letter to the bureau from a commercial organization states that it has an inquiry for names of manufacturers making tin-lined packing cases.

Food products, notions, etc., No. 19552.—An American consular officer in Paraguay reports that a firm in his district wishes to establish commercial relations with exporters of food products, notions, wire, cooking utensils, cast iron, and revolver ammunition.

Steel magnets, No. 19553.—A firm in Switzerland informs an American consular officer that it urgently requests quotations from manufacturers of steel magnets for electric-current regulators.

Lupines, No. 19554.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a business man desires to find a market for lupines, samples of which may be inspected at the bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 65519.) Prices at present are 19 pesetas per 100 kilos, sack included, f. o. b. Spanish port. The price is liable to variations of from 50 centimos to 1 peseta, according to the market. (Note.—1 gold peseta equals \$0.193.)

Machinery, No. 19555.—A report from an American consular officer in Mexico states that there is a possibility of establishing a light and power plant in his district, and quotations are requested from manufacturers of pumps, engines, and dynamos. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 293 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, December 15 1915

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EMBARGO ON LOGWOOD IN BRITISH HONDURAS.

[Telegram from American consul, Belize, Dec. 12.]

The exportation of logwood is prohibited except to the United Kingdom. [Reference to the embargo on logwood in Jamaica was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 9, 1915.]

IMPROVEMENT IN THE LUMBER EXPORT FACILITIES.

[Commercial Agent W. B. Henderson, Seattle, Dec. 9.]

There has lately been a material improvement in lumber shipping facilities from the Pacific Northwest ports. The firm of Charles R. McCormick & Co. has completed a vessel with a capacity of 2,000,000 feet to put in the trade between this coast and European ports. To-day I was informed that another vessel of practically the same capacity had been ordered. These vessels will be four-mast and have semi-Deisel auxiliaries.

It is reported that a bill will be introduced at the next meeting of the British Columbia Parliament providing for a bond issue by the Provincial Government to be used in building 30 four-mast semi-Deisel auxiliary schooners. These schooners will have approximately 2,235 tons dead-weight capacity, or 1,800 tons gross registry. This is equivalent to about 1,300 tons net registry. Their capacity for carrying lumber will be about 2,000,000 feet each. These schooners are to be turned over to lumber manufacturers of British Columbia, who are to assume the bonds and pay for the schooners as bonds fall due. They are to be operated in the lumber trade of the entire Pacific coast. In anticipation of this Mr. J. G. Wood, of British Columbia, has been appointed by the British Columbia Government to open offices in London for the sale of Canadian lumber.

It is reported that these vessels will take about 200,000,000 feet of lumber annually, whereas the present exportation is only about 60,000,000 feet. Keels of six or eight of these vessels are to be laid in British Columbia by April 1, and the remainder to be built as the demand increases.

SPECIAL STEAMER SERVICE TO BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Bermuda, British West Indies, Nov. 26.]

After several months of negotiations, the Bermuda Government has entered into a contract with the Quebec Steamship Co. for special steamer service during January, February, March, April, and May of the coming year. The contract provides for the running of the *Bermudian*, which has been constantly on the New York-Bermuda route, and of the *Evangeline*, which has been chartered by the company for this special service.

The *Bermudian* (5,530 tons gross) accommodates 346 first-class and 12 second-class passengers and will be put on a weekly schedule beginning January 5, 1916. The *Evangeline* (4,360 gross tons) can accommodate about 350 first-class and 50 second-class passengers. This boat will leave New York on its initial trip on December 24, 1915, and will be continued during the months indicated on a 9 or 10 day schedule. The Government has bound itself to pay for this service the sum of \$5,760 per month and not to grant any subsidy to any other company or steamship for the New York-Bermuda service during the term of the contract.

Until the success of the negotiations was assured there was considerable doubt as to whether the two largest hotels in Bermuda, the Hamilton and the Princess, would open during the tourist season, but these two hostelries have now announced through the local press that they will open, the Princess on December 13 and the Hamilton on or about January 1. Owing to unusual circumstances connected with the war, the number of tourists visiting Bermuda in 1914 was less than in the preceding year (14,773, as against 21,595), but with the facilities which the Government has been able to arrange it is anticipated that the forthcoming season will be much better than the last.

SPANISH MAIL TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 13.]

By a recent decision the Spanish postal authorities have ordered that for the present all mail matter for points in the United States is to be carried by boats of the Spanish lines, Compañía Trasatlántica Española and Pinillos Izquierdo y Compañía. All mail for the United States received at post offices in Spain will be forwarded to the central post office at Madrid and thence sent to Cadiz or Coruna to be taken by the first available boat of the companies mentioned. As there is only one direct sailing a month for the United States by either of the lines mentioned, it has been arranged that mail destined for the United States be shipped by other boats of these lines to the first port in Porto Rico or Cuba, where there may be good connections with the United States. No mail will be sent for the moment via France as heretofore, unless it is clearly stated on the envelope to be so forwarded.

The scheduled monthly sailings to carry mail by the new routes are as follows: The 10th of each month, Compañía Pinillos Izquierdo y Compañía, from Cadiz to Porto Rico; the 15th, Compañía Trasatlántica Española, from Cadiz to Porto Rico; 21st, Compañía Trasatlántica Española, from Coruna to Habana; 25th, Compañía Pinillos Izquierdo y Compañía, from Cadiz to Porto Rico; and the 30th, Compañía Trasatlántica Española, from Cadiz to New York.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he has received in stock during the week ended December 11 the following new United States Government publications, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Customs Regulations of the United States. prescribed for the Instruction and Guidance of Customs Officers, edition of 1915, published by the Division of Customs, Treasury Department.—Covers regulations and requirements for importation of goods into the United States, embracing the amount of customs, methods of collecting, making out invoices and other papers, appraisements, general duties of customs officers, etc. Price, cloth, \$1.

Education for the Home, Part 4. List of References on Education for the Home, Cities, and Towns, Teaching Household Arts. Education Bureau Bulletin 39, 1914.—Contains a list of books relating to the subject, including bulletins published by various colleges and schools, and a list of cities and towns teaching household arts. Price, paper, 10 cents.

The Water Requirement of Plant, Part 1. Investigations in the Great Plains in 1910 and 1911, Plant Industry Bulletin 284.—Includes the water requirements of crops in pot culture, wheat, sorghum, barley, legumes, etc., including climatic conditions. Price, paper, 15 cents.

Woodman's Handbook. Forest Service Bulletin 36.—Comprehensive work on log, timber, and board measurements, including the various standard rules such as Scribner's, Doyle's, Spaulding's, etc., with instructions for log scaling and measurement of standing timber, etc. Price, paper, 25 cents.

Effects of Atmospheres Deficient in Oxygen on Small Animals and on Men. Mines Bureau Technical Paper 122.—Study of the effect of bad air, covering experiments on mice, canary birds, experiments by members of the Bureau of Mines. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Essential Factors in the Formation of Producer Gas. Mines Bureau Bulletin 7.—Covers experimental investigations, discussions on the physical-chemical principles, temperatures, yield, commercial practice, etc. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Government Coal Purchases under Specifications, with Analyses for the Fiscal Year 1909-10. Mines Bureau Bulletin 41.—Covers value of coal as fuel, definite specifications for coal purchases, results of analyses, apparatus used, etc. Price, paper, 15 cents.

Land Drainage by Means of Pumps. Agriculture Department Bulletin 304.—Covers drainage reclamation, drainage in northern Europe, experiences in United States, pumping systems, including construction of levees, maintenance of plants, etc. Price, paper, 15 cents.

Importance and Character of the Milled Rice Imported into the United States. Agriculture Department Bulletin 323.—Covering quantity and value of rice imported, description of rice types, analyses, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Asparagus Culture. Farmers' Bulletin 61.—Embraces history, botany, varieties, seed, preparation of soil, planting, cultivation, manuring, marketing, canning, diseases, and insect enemies. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Production of Clean Milk. Farmers' Bulletin 602.—Practical work on the hygienic production of milk for general use. Price, paper, 5 cents.

CHILE HOPES TO INCREASE TRADE WITH BOLIVIA.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, American Embassy, Santiago, Nov. 5.]

The *Mercurio* of to-day, referring to work in the interest of Chilean industry in Bolivia, says in part: "The Chilean Chamber of Industry named Oscar Hurtado (Aguirre) to go to La Paz, and establish an exposition of Chilean products and an office of information. It is stated that Chile has sold but \$500,000 per year to Bolivia, which imports \$16,000,000 per year, and that the present conflict makes it impossible for Bolivia to purchase where it has bought before, while Chile is equipped to sell a great deal more than it has ever done. It is also thought that Chile could develop the drug and pharmaceutical business if it could secure the Bolivian trade."

STANDARD FOR IMPORTED MILK.

Milk or cream imported into the United States from Canada must comply with the requirements demanded of dairymen by the Dominion of Canada authorities, as well as the requirements of the United States food and drugs act. Dairy products which do not come up to these requirements are stopped at the international border and, in order to minimize the loss that this causes to shippers or importers, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Canadian health officials are cooperating in the effort to secure the production and shipment of sanitary milk.

Under this arrangement all dairies from which milk is shipped into the United States must attain a well-balanced dairy score of 50 on the basis of a possible 100 points. Secondly, the product itself must meet the standards required of milk produced in the United States.

To secure the passing score of 50, according to the Canadian requirements, every dairy must satisfy the inspectors on certain important points. The milch cows must be housed and milked in a room which does not contain other animals or, if this is impossible, must be separated from any other animals in the building by a tight, solid partition. The stable must be kept clean, and it is desirable that whitewash be applied twice a year. There must also be sufficient light, 4 square feet of glass for every cow being desirable, although in some cases somewhat less may be acceptable. The milk utensils must be thoroughly washed twice a day. They must be made of metal, not galvanized, and all joints and seams well flushed with solder. The milk must be removed from the stable as soon as it is drawn from the cow and must be handled thereafter in a clean place. A well-lighted and well-ventilated milk room which is used for nothing but the handling and storing of milk is the only satisfactory equipment for this purpose. This room should not be closer than 20 feet to the stock barns, pig pens, or manure pile; and, on the other hand, it must not be so far from the barn that there will be a tendency on the part of the milkmen to wait until several pails of milk have been secured before carrying them to the milk house. All milk utensils, including the separator, if one is used, must be kept in this house. It is also desirable that there should be a cooling tank in the same building. The dairyman's object should be to see how cool he can keep his milk—not how little he can cool it. Manure must not, of course, be piled up in the neighborhood of the milk house or close to the barn.

A farm which meets these conditions will receive a score of at least 50 points. It then remains for the dairyman to see that he and his assistants handle the milk in such a way that the bacteriological count is as low as possible. Milk, when it comes from a healthy cow, is practically free from bacteria. In this condition it will keep for a long time without spoiling. If, on the other hand, pure milk is drawn into dirty pails, if any form of dirt is permitted to get into it in other ways, or if it is not properly cooled, it will soon contain millions of bacteria. In this condition it is unfit for human consumption. No matter how good a plant the dairyman has, therefore, it is essential that he use it properly and carefully. In particular,

it is most important that the milk be properly cooled. A farmer who has been careful to produce a clean article is wasting his labor if he fails to store it in such a way that it will remain sanitary.

The observance of these precautions will save producers and dealers much loss and inconvenience in bringing milk over the international border. The food and drugs act provides that all food and drug products offered for importation into this country which are adulterated or misbranded within the meaning of the act, or otherwise dangerous to the health of the people of the United States, or of a kind forbidden to be sold or restricted in sale in the country from which exported, shall be refused admission to this country. It is therefore necessary that all foods and drugs imported into this country comply with the requirements both of this country and of the country from which they are imported. In the case of milk from Canada, it may be said that the milk which meets all the requirements of the Canadian authorities will also meet the requirements of the United States.

EXTENSIONS IN POSTAL SERVICE OF SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 10.]

The Spanish postal authorities announce that a money-order service, both by post and telegraph, has been established between Honduras and Spain, limiting the amount of each order to 1,000 pesetas gold (\$193). Beginning December 1, 1915, also, money orders, telegraphic and postal, are accepted for Holland at all the post offices of Spain, limiting the amount, as in the case of Honduras, to 1,000 pesetas.

For several years a need has been felt in Spain for a parcel-post service such as is in operation in other European countries. The steamship lines connecting Spain with South and Central America seem adapted to make such a service comparatively easy, and the Spanish Government has recently concluded negotiations with Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru for the interchange of postal parcels. The new service will utilize the vessels of the Spanish Compañía Transatlántica, which has a monthly sailing for Argentina from Barcelona.

Packages may be sent weighing up to 5 kilos (11.02 pounds) to Argentina, Chile, and Peru, and weighing up to 3 kilos (6.61 pounds) to Bolivia and Paraguay.

This new service is recognized as so advantageous to the commerce between Spain and the countries referred to that it is hoped a similar arrangement may be made with other Latin-American nations. Attention is called to the fact that there are steamship lines plying between Spanish ports and those of Honduras and Nicaragua, passing relatively near to Puerto Barrios, in Guatemala, which would facilitate connections with those points, and through them with Salvador. It is likewise desired to extend this direct service to Venezuela and Colombia through Spanish vessels that touch at ports in these countries. At present postal parcels from Spain for Venezuela and Colombia are forwarded by the French mail.

[Previous articles on the parcel-post service in Spain were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 29 and Oct. 22, 1915.]

AMERICAN TRADE FOR ONE WEEK.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending December 11, 1915, at 13 principal customs districts of the United States follow:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$3,806	\$1.014	\$133,176
Massachusetts (Boston).....	3,999,825	184,618	960,409
New York.....	23,937,014	3,213,533	70,371,424
Philadelphia.....	1,163,318	215,446	6,96,041
Maryland (Baltimore).....	400,654	10,483	1,158,685
Virginia (Norfolk).....	16,982	1,935	1,464,712
New Orleans.....	619,176	33,639	3,735,723
Galveston.....	211,470	35,939	4,003,926
San Francisco.....	1,262,394	106,400	1,691,191
Washington (Seattle).....	4,416,355	16,270	2,873,642
Buffalo.....	675,342	30,145	1,710,401
Chicago.....	506,663	139,496	
Michigan (Detroit).....	784,684	54,488	3,348,654
Total.....	38,067,733	4,039,706	98,408,134

The above figures show a favorable balance on merchandise transactions for the week ending December 11 in the 13 customs districts of \$60,350,401. The 13 districts cited handled about 91 per cent of the import and export business of the country, based on the transactions in September, 1915.

Cotton exported during the week ending December 11 amounted to 98,581 bales, making the total since August 1, 1915, approximately 1,985,552 bales.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Grace, William J.....	Aden, Arabia.....	Dec. 15	Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York City.
Dawson, William.....	Rosario, Argentina.....	do.	903 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Peck, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(e)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

CENSUS BUREAU COTTON REPORT.

According to a preliminary report issued by the United States Bureau of Census, the cotton consumed, cotton on hand, and active cotton spindles in the United States for the month of November, 1915 and 1914, with statistics of cotton consumed for the four months ending with November, are given below. (The statistics of cotton in this report are given in running bales, counting round as half bales, except foreign cotton, which is in equivalent 500-pound bales.)

Locality.	Year.	Cotton consumed (bales) during—		Cotton on hand November 30.		Cotton spindles active during November (number).
		November.	4 months ending Nov. 30.	In consuming establishments (bales).	In public storage and at compresses (bales).	
United States	1915	514,534	1,977,874	1,613,110	4,982,472	31,497,435
	1914	420,703	1,671,149	1,032,102	4,998,414	30,425,797
Cotton-growing States	1915	285,435	1,080,679	953,547	4,619,324	12,801,204
	1914	233,465	605,271	559,135	4,867,316	12,334,265
All other States	1915	229,099	897,195	659,563	363,148	18,696,231
	1914	184,241	765,878	502,967	131,098	18,091,532

^a Includes of foreign cotton 26,880 bales consumed, 83,830 bales on hand in consuming establishments and 24,012 bales in public storage.

Linters not included above were 78,261 bales consumed during November in 1915 and 27,282 bales in 1914, 151,697 bales on hand in consuming establishments on November 30, 1915, and 78,343 bales in 1914, and 116,787 bales in public storage and at compresses in 1915, and 56,770 bales in 1914. Linters consumed during four months ending November 30 amounted to 271,467 bales in 1915, and 110,428 bales in 1914.

Imports and Exports of Cotton and Linters.

The imports of foreign cotton and the exports of domestic cotton and linters during November and four months ending November, 1914 and 1915, follow:

Country of production.	Imports of foreign cotton (500-pound bales) during—				Country to which exported.	Exports of domestic cotton and linters (running bales) during—			
	November—		4 months ending Nov. 30—			November—		4 months ending Nov. 30—	
	1915	1914	1915	1914		1915	1914	1915	1914
Total ..	21,169	13,454	79,862	68,006	Total ..	527,625	780,929	1,866,994	1,405,049
Egypt	15,858	7,360	52,236	27,065	United Kingdom ..	158,725	333,700	714,710	623,115
Peru	643	981	1,603	2,338	Germany	None.	1,030	None.	1,052
China	243	1,333	7,952	5,554	France	108,774	42,200	317,245	64,597
All other countries ..	4,425	3,777	18,011	33,029	Italy	96,657	117,338	405,266	183,769
					All other countries ..	163,469	266,541	429,773	532,516

^a Figures include 14,894 bales of linters exported during November in 1915 and 7,267 bales in 1914 and 49,734 bales for four months ending Nov. 30 in 1915, and 14,064 bales in 1914. The distribution for November, 1915, is as follows: United Kingdom, 33; Germany, none; France, 13,011; Italy, none; and all other countries, 1,844.

COTTON GOODS MARKET OF SWATOW.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Oct. 13.]

There appears to be no good reason why American cotton goods should not compete with British cotton goods in this market. In spite of the efforts made by Japanese manufacturers to increase their sales here British goods still predominate. Cotton goods constitute one of the principal imports into Swatow, amounting, roughly, to \$4,900,000 in value in 1914. During the last seven years imports of plain gray shirtings have generally declined, except for a reaction that occurred in 1914. Imports of plain white shirtings also showed the same tendency until 1913 and 1914, when increases occurred. Imports of jeans increased, while T cloth arrivals have decreased.

The decreases above mentioned are attributable to past unsettled conditions in China, to the increasing imports of native cotton goods from Shanghai mills, and to the increasing local output, a number of mills containing hand looms having been established here in recent years. It will be a long time, however, before the Chinese can dispense with the better quality foreign article, and a part, at least, of the annual \$4,900,000 worth of foreign cotton goods imported into Swatow should be of American manufacture.

Samples of Gray Cotton Goods.

There are being sent under separate cover to the Bureau samples of gray, white, and fancy cotton cloth commonly sold in this market. [The samples referred to may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file Nos. 69073 and 69074.]

Gray goods are carefully wrapped in oiled cloth. Sample A, plain gray, comes in 10-pound pieces, each 38½ or 39 yards long by 38 inches wide, 50 pieces to the bale. Sample B, plain gray, comes in 10-pound pieces, each 39 yards long by 38 inches wide, 50 pieces to the bale. Sample C, plain gray, comes in 8-pound pieces, each 24 yards long by 36 inches wide, 60 pieces to the bale. Sample D, plain gray, comes in 8½-pound pieces, each 39 yards long by 38 inches wide, 60 pieces to the bale. Sample E, plain gray, comes in 7-pound pieces, each 24 yards long by 30 inches wide, 70 pieces to the bale. Sample F, plain gray, comes in 8½-pound pieces, each 39 yards long by 38 inches wide, 60 pieces to the bale.

White Goods and Fancies.

Samples A 1 and A 2, plain white, each piece 40 yards long by 36 inches wide, are packed in tin or zinc-lined cases, each containing 50 pieces. Sample A 3, plain white, each piece 41 yards long by 36 inches wide, is packed in tin-lined cases, each containing 50 pieces. Sample A 4, plain white, each piece 40 yards long by 36 inches wide, is packed in tin-lined cases, each containing 50 pieces. Each piece sold in the market is marked with the trade name or "chop" of the manufacturer or importer.

Samples O illustrate types of fancy cotton goods that are popular in this market. These are mostly packed in cases of 20, 30, 40, or 60 pieces to the case. The pieces are 20, 30, 40, or 60 yards long and 24, 28, 30, 48, 54, or 56 inches wide.

Canvas, Italian, Drill, Japanese Cotton Cloth.

Sample W, American canvas, called United States Army duck, comes in weights of 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12 ounces; each piece is 55 yards

long. There is a big demand for this material in the manufacture of canvas shoes. It is sometimes dyed black and yellow. The imports were 63,893 yards for 1913, 27,686 yards for 1914, 53,707 yards for the first 9 months in 1915. Sample X, commonly called cotton italian, fast black, comes in pieces, each 31 inches wide by 40 yards long, 50 pieces to the case, which is wood and tin lined. This sells at 36 to 37 cents Mexican per yard. About 50 cases per annum are sold in Swatow. Sample Y, called drill, comes in pieces, each 32 inches wide by 45 yards long, 50 pieces to the case, which is wood and tin lined. Sample Z, Japanese machine-made cotton cloth, ordinarily has a big sale in this market. It sells in competition with the cloth made by local Chinese on hand looms in their homes.

Destination and Uses of Foreign Cloth—Imports.

Much of the gray cloth imported into Swatow is forwarded into the interior, where it is dyed. The gray samples transmitted are British and find their way into Swatow through Hongkong and, sometimes, Shanghai. This cloth is used for clothing among the poorer classes of Chinese. The white cloth also enters via Hongkong, and much of it is sent into the interior to be dyed. It is used for making clothing for the better classes of Chinese. Some of it is reexported to Chinese in the South Seas. The fancies are in demand for making clothing for the urban better-class Chinese. This class of goods is imported from various countries.

The terms of credit allowed are three months.

The following table shows the imports at Swatow during the last six years of various kinds of foreign and Chinese piece goods:

Piece goods.	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
FOREIGN.							
Shirtings, plain:							
Gray.....pieces..	96,332	130,632	114,496	108,262	103,602	102,424	113,503
White.....do.....	157,600	207,198	174,415	160,893	140,653	174,447	187,019
Sheetings.....do.....	351	300	90	90	40	20	890
Drills, American and English.....do.....	1,976	2,338	1,057	1,767	2,034	2,252	1,382
Jeans.....do.....	12,017	16,204	21,802	21,547	26,427	26,330	30,190
T cloths.....do.....	19,405	23,589	19,531	15,210	17,732	14,878	9,638
Dyed shirtings, plain, figured, broadened, and spotted.....pieces.....	1,843	2,679	650	926	270	1,445	3,196
Cotton flannel.....do.....	36,179	10,458	14,384	37,529	35,155	40,190	23,451
CHINESE.							
Shirtings, gray.....pieces.....	260	1,120	490	920	540	1,170	80
Sheetings.....do.....	7,120	8,570	12,967	11,780	14,990	14,980	16,840
Nankeens.....pounds.....	278,667	345,067	294,133	303,733	247,467	368,400	378,133

Chinese Cotton Goods—Successful Native Firm.

Chinese cotton goods vary in the size and weight of piece and are very cheap, a piece 22 inches by 11½ yards selling at Swatow for \$2.75 Mexican. [The latest quarterly statement (Oct. 1, 1915) of the United States Treasury on the values of foreign coins gives the value of the Mexican dollar in China as \$0.3841.]

It is used by the poorer classes of Chinese for clothing for everyday wear. Much is made locally on wooden hand looms, which cost at Swatow \$6 Mexican each, and some is imported from north China ports. Chinese weaves are inferior to the foreign article in quality. Business is done on a three-months' credit basis.

It has recently been reported that a local Chinese firm, acting as the agent of a Hongkong British firm, has been successfully competing with the principal local British firm in selling British piece goods.

The Chinese firm has done exceedingly well, after only a year's trial, but it has of late experienced inconvenience because of delay in the delivery of piece goods.

VALUE OF PERMANENT MARKET IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Oct. 31.]

Letters have been received at various times by the Asuncion consulate, from companies, commercial associations, and persons, stating a desire to enter the Paraguay market with their goods, and giving as an important reason the fact that the European war has left them with a large surplus of goods on hand. Points which may be of some interest to persons or companies having that object in view should be called to their attention.

Paraguay, under existing financial and commercial conditions, does not offer an attractive temporary market for the disposal of surplus goods. The value of merchandise imported during 1914 was far below normal, and available figures for 1915 show the value of importations for the present year to be far below 1914. The purchasing power of importers here, and the demand for goods within the Republic, have for the time being diminished greatly. This is due to the war and to internal matters.

The general buying public in Paraguay is accustomed to few imported luxuries, and is able to live to a great extent on the products of the country, when necessity requires it. Thus the value of importations will not increase materially until conditions improve. Even if conditions here were favorable to a large importation of merchandise, the greater part of the surplus goods on hand in the United States is unsuited to the needs and tastes of this market.

Factor in Predominance of European Goods.

European manufacturers and exporters have long since realized that this market differed from their own markets. Action on this knowledge, by manufacturing goods suited to the market, has been one of the principal factors in the predominance of European goods here. A study of the peculiar needs and tastes of the buying public here is necessary before goods can be sold in any considerable quantity.

The total value of merchandise imported into Paraguay is not large, while the expense and difficulties in introducing goods are as great as in any market in Latin America. Goods from the United States will never be sold in Paraguay in any considerable quantity by means of catalogues and letters. It must be borne in mind that these catalogues and letters, often in English or poor Spanish, are competing as salesmen with trained commercial travelers, experienced in the demands and business methods of this country, who are cultivating personal relations with the importers here.

The value of Paraguay as a market for American goods is as a permanent market. Prices of goods offered by European exporters must be studied and met. A personal relationship must be established between importers here and manufacturers and exporters in the United States, such as exists between importers here and exporters in Europe. Practically every importing house here has some firm in Europe which acts as its representative in Europe, buying and selling goods and extending credit. Such relationships must be established by American exporters.

DAIRY PRODUCTS IN STAVANGER DISTRICT.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Norway, Oct. 21.]

At a Norwegian agricultural school called the Stavanger Amt's Landbruksskole, an institution partly supported by the local government of Stavanger district, milch cows are kept for experiment and profit, under very favorable conditions. Not only are the climatic conditions good in this locality, but the cows on this school's farm are given special care. Its milk production, therefore, probably represents as good results as are obtained in this section.

The expense of keeping cattle at the Stavanger Landbruksskole naturally comes higher than similar costs to the ordinary farmer of the district. Each cow averages about 2,610 quarts a year, and this milk, calculated at an average price of \$0.0307 per quart, is worth \$80.13. Part of this is represented by butter worth a little over \$0.26 per pound, and part by skimmed milk (some of which is used for the calves) at a little less than \$0.01 a quart.

Feed and Other Expenses—Care of Cattle.

The feed is the greatest item of expense and one to which special attention is given to secure good results. The average amount of feed consumed by a full-grown milch cow during a normal year is here given, together with the average costs: Hay, 2,995 pounds, \$18.24; straw, 931 pounds, \$2.84; turnips, 5,696 pounds, \$6.24; green fodder, 6,162 pounds, \$7.50; ensilage, 1,736 pounds, \$2.11; mixed "strong feeds," 948 pounds, \$15.02; liquid molasses, 150 pounds, \$1.28; pasture for 45.6 days, \$3.67; total cost, \$56.91.

In this district cottonseed meal is the most generally used of the "strong," or protein, feeds, but rye bran, dried-herring meal, and soya-bean meal are also utilized.

Each day during the winter, when the feeding is most expensive, a cow on the school's farm, giving $10\frac{1}{2}$ quarts of milk, consumes about 13 pounds of hay, 2 pounds of straw, 44 pounds of turnips, and 3 pounds of protein feed, the total value of which comes to \$0.18. The quantities may vary somewhat, according to the year; 2 pounds less of hay may be given with 2 pounds more of straw and more protein feed. The average cow weighs 770 pounds.

The care given the cows at the Landbruksskole differs from that ordinarily given cattle in this district. The average time a cow is out in pasture every year is only 45.6 days. This is from the first half of August until the end of September (the summers here are very late), and the cattle are out only from 9 a. m. until 4.30 p. m. Meanwhile they also get hay and protein feed. Farmers usually keep cows out much longer here; some from the 1st of June until October. The maintenance of these is naturally less and does not come to more than \$0.05 to \$0.07 a day for each cow during the summer months.

Other expenses for the care of the cows at the Landbruksskole's farm are estimated at \$13.20 per cow for a normal year. These expenses include care of the barn, medicine, interest, etc. Total expenses are thus reckoned at about \$70.11. As the milk from each cow is worth \$80.13, we find the gain per annum on each cow about \$10.

This management of cattle yields two other items of profit that do not appear in the above figures, namely, the value of the manure and the sale of animals for slaughtering and breeding purposes. The

cows are tested for tuberculosis, which is not always the case at other farms and dairies, as there is no Government regulation compelling it.

The pupils receive scientific and practical training in the management of this branch of farming. There are about 30 pupils—young men ranging in age from 16 to 25.

Receipts and Expenditures.

During the year ended June 30, 1914, the cattle on the school farm included 3 bulls, 26 to 32 cows, and a few heifers and young calves. During that year the total net profit from dairy products, manure, and animals sold was \$460.79. A leaf from the manager's account book gives details of the various receipts and expenditures:

Items.	Value.	Items.	Value.
CREDIT.		DEBIT—continued.	
Dairy products and cattle sold.....	\$1,809.20	Light and fire.....	\$6.70
Manure for garden and field.....	394.98	Horse labor.....	10.94
Value of cattle, June 30, 1914.....	2,360.78	Repairs, freight, medicine, etc.....	289.34
Inventory and stock.....	213.81	Protein feed and molasses.....	399.02
Total.....	4,718.77	Hay, straw, ensilage, green fodder, pasturage, leaves.....	1,045.50
DEBIT.		Turnips, kohlrabi, beets, etc.....	110.28
Value of cattle, July 1, 1913.....	2,026.08	Profit.....	460.79
Inventory and stock.....	213.41	Total.....	4,718.77
Part of stableman's salary.....	76.71		

* Stableman is paid separately for other farm duties.

Dairy Products of Stavanger District.

The cool even climate of Stavanger would seem particularly favorable for the production of good milk, butter, and cheese. The district lies in the southwestern part of Norway, where the climate is so tempered by the Gulf Stream that along the coast the mean temperature for January is only about 34° Fahrenheit and for July about 55°. Although Stavanger includes only one thirty-fifth of Norway's area and one-eighteenth of the total population, the district produces one-eighth of Norway's total milk supply, namely, about 39,000,000 quarts per annum.

In 1914 about 12,000,000 quarts of Stavanger's total milk production were used to make 1,000,000 pounds of butter. About 9,000,000 quarts were consumed directly, some being shipped to localities outside the district. About 1,200,000 quarts were used to make "dry milk." [Evaporating factories for manufacturing dry milk were described in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for June 11, 1914.] The amount has been greater in previous years; the manufacture of this product seems to prove less and less profitable.

Cheese production varies greatly. In 1914 about 17,000,000 quarts of milk were used to make about 3,500,000 pounds of cheese, while in 1913 only about 10,000,000 quarts were used to make cheese. Cheese is a very popular article of food here and many varieties are made, some being imitations of foreign makes (as Dutch and Swiss) and others peculiarly Norwegian. One variety much used and considered a Norwegian specialty is a goat's-milk cheese of a light-brown color. It has a delicate flavor and an attractive appearance. A certain amount of this cheese is shipped regularly from this district to the United States. During the first quarter of 1915, 30,629 pounds of cheese, principally goat's cheese, was shipped to the United States,

15,783 pounds during the second quarter, and 8,402 pounds during the third quarter. The present falling off is due to the greatly increased demand for all food products in Norway.

There are 36 dairies in this district, employing 160 people. The ordinary farmer usually gets about \$0.03 a quart for his milk from these dairies, and the consumer now pays \$0.05.

REVIVAL OF PROJECT FOR PORT ON ZACATE ISLAND.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.]

The project of a port on Zacate Grande Island, which has been under discussion for a long time, has been revived during the present year. This work in Fonseca Bay would probably have been started the past year had it not been for the retrenchment made necessary by the war. The projected improvement, as considered by President Bertrand, involved an expenditure eventually of 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 pesos (\$1,200,000 to \$1,600,000).

Certain firms at Amapala have made large profits in handling shipments. It is believed that the establishment of a port on Zacate Grande will eliminate 75 per cent of these charges, even if no pier is built. The plan is to connect the island with the mainland and build a road (preferably a tram line) to connect with the present road to Tegucigalpa, near Pespire, a distance of about 25 miles. The further plan of the President calls for the erection of necessary buildings, barracks, customhouse, and a small town on the island. The port would be the logical terminus for the long-contemplated trans-Isthmian railroad from Puerto Cortés. On Zacate Island is all the rock necessary to make and anchor the fill to the mainland, which would be about 800 feet long. There is no wash, and the proposed port is more protected than is the roadstead at Amapala.

CHILEAN COMMERCIAL DELEGATE TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Nov. 12.]

A Valparaiso newspaper states that Señor Don José A. del Campo T., appointed Chilean consul in Mobile, has been given a special mission as a commercial delegate to the United States and to the Central American Republics. The newspaper further reports that Señor del Campo will open a permanent exhibition of Chilean products, particularly wines, in Chicago and New York; that the samples will be well displayed and fully classified, catalogued, and priced.

Similar exhibitions may be undertaken for a short period in other cities of the United States and in the Central American Republics. He will also make a study of the various industries in the United States which might be successfully developed in Chile.

It was reported that Señor del Campo expected to sail for the United States immediately.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

GUM-TRAGACANTH INDUSTRY IN PERSIA.

[Vice Consul Ralph H. Bader, Teheran, Oct. 25.]

The various species of *Astragalus*, known in Persia as "kevin," from which gum tragacanth is obtained, grow on the mountain ranges which surround the Persian plain. The bushes producing the gum grow to a height of 2 feet. In the spring when the sap rises a part of the branches are cut away, thereby allowing the sap to flow out, which coagulates within a few hours on the surface of the stalk.

The price of gum tragacanth has increased 5 to 10 per cent since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe. The present prices per pound for the different grades of gum are as follows: First grade, 75 cents; second grade, 40 cents; third grade, 28 cents; fourth grade, 20 cents; and fifth grade, 12 cents.

Where the Gum is Shipped.

The principal Persian markets for gum tragacanth are Hamadan, Shiraz, Kerman, and Kermanshah. From 150 to 200 tons are exported annually from Hamadan alone. Before August 1, 1914, half of this amount was shipped to Russia and the other half to America and Great Britain; but since that date the amount shipped to Russia has been reduced to one-fifth, the other four-fifths going to America and Great Britain.

The following table shows the principal countries of destination during the fiscal years given (year ended March 20):

Country.	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14
Austria-Hungary.....	\$4,995	\$4,401	\$5,631
Belgium.....	51,927	8,611	12,287
France.....	10,167	14,751	10,986
Germany.....	103,371	51,402	46,828
Great Britain.....	432,200	334,131	363,759
India.....	87,175	153,916	117,516
Russia.....	324,870	477,148	318,246
Turkey.....	390,801	185,694	232,629
United States.....	52,767	16,335	54,141
All other countries.....	£0	4,853	470
Total.....	1,467,363	1,251,242	1,165,413

ANTIMONY MINES IN HONDURAS.

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, Nov. 30.]

Because of the advance in value of antimony incidental to the war in Europe, the profitable exportation of antimony ore or stibnite assaying about 70 per cent has become possible from a mine said to be rich, but hitherto undeveloped, because of unfavorable transportation conditions, and recently several small shipments of ore have been made from this port to New York. This ore is mined in the vicinity of the interior village of Voro and has to be transported six days by pack mule to the Sulaco River, thence two days by canoe down the river to Pimienta, where rail connection is made for Puerto Cortes. The mining and shipping of this ore under such difficult transportation conditions is along the line with the claim that has often been made—that the interior of this district was rich in minerals and only needed railroads for the development of the same.

[The name of the mine owner may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or one of its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69907.]

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF PORT OF ROTTERDAM.

[Consul General Soren Listoe, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 25.]

According to a bill that has just reached the second chamber in the Netherlands, it is proposed first to deepen the channel of the New Waterway from Rotterdam to the North Sea to 38 feet, and later to 41 feet at ordinary high tide.

It is pointed out in the explanatory memorandum that the works carried out in recent years have made a continuous channel for the entire length of the waterway at least 328 feet wide and 31.2 feet deep at ordinary high tide (26.2 feet at ordinary low tide), and have also considerably improved the mouth of the waterway. Thus ships with a draft of 30.8 feet can at present pass through the waterway in both directions at ordinary high tide.

The work of deepening will require the dredging of 10,464,000 cubic yards, the cost being estimated at \$1,005,000. Expenditures for improvements in the part called "Zuiden" are estimated at \$201,000; for altering the course of the river near Maassluis, at \$402,000; and for other expenditures, at \$402,000. The total cost will therefore be \$2,010,000.

Negotiations with the municipal authorities of Rotterdam are still pending. The bill contains the stipulation that the work will not be undertaken before Rotterdam has agreed to pay one-third of the expenses.

FRUIT GROWING IN FERNIE DISTRICT.

[Consul Thomas D. Bowman, Fernie, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 6.]

Fruit and vegetables are beginning to assume some importance as a product of the Fernie consular district. This industry is confined to the Arrow Lake region, in the vicinity of Nelson. During the 1915 season 31 carloads of fruit were shipped from this region. About 10 carloads of apples and 10 carloads of potatoes are still in storage, ready for the market. This makes a total marketable production of 51 carloads for the season, besides several carloads shipped to jam factories of which there are no available records.

There was a short fruit crop in British Columbia this year. In spite of this fact the growers of this district encountered difficulty in marketing their crops. Three carloads of apples were shipped to England and the remainder was sold in Canada.

LIST OF CENSUS PUBLICATIONS PREPARED.

The United States Census Bureau has for free distribution a "Circular of Information Concerning Census Publications" (Circular No. 2), which gives a list of all Census publications from 1790 to the present time, classified according to subjects, with brief descriptions of their contents. A separate list shows, in chronological order, the various decennial and "intercensal" publications of the Census Bureau, and describes the relationships of the Thirteenth Census reports and bulletins to one another. Anyone desiring a copy of this 91-page pamphlet may obtain it by addressing the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Sewage elevating apparatus, No. 19532.—An American consular office reports that bids will be opened January 31, 1916, for providing the sewer system in one of the large cities in Chile with an elevator. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.

General representation, No. 19533.—A letter to the Bureau states that a firm of commission agents in Canada desires to represent manufacturers or exporters. No particular line is specified.

Enamel ware, lamps, etc., No. 19534.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from an American who desires to represent manufacturers of enamel ware, lamps, picture molding, stationery, and white-enamelled rice bowls in the Straits Settlements. The inquirer states that he has lived in the Straits Settlements for nearly 10 years. References furnished.

Mica and wolfram, No. 19535.—A letter to the Bureau from Argentina states that an owner of two mines, one of mica and the other of wolfram, desires to find a market for these two minerals. It is stated that from 10,000 to 15,000 kilos of wolfram, and from 2,000 to 3,000 kilos of mica are taken out monthly, but it is possible to increase this output, if necessary. Specimens of the minerals are being forwarded, and when they arrive may be inspected at the Bureau or its branch offices.

Toys, Jewelry, etc., No. 19536.—The Bureau is informed that a business man in Spain desires to correspond with manufacturers of toys; jewelry; art metal goods; hair ornaments, with gold or gilt finish; crystal or fine glass; and novelties. Correspondence in Spanish preferred.

Men's collars, No. 19537.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a leading haberdashery desires catalogues, samples, prices, and discounts on men's collars of the various styles, such as standing, winged, turned-down and unstarched. It is stated that the samples should be plainly marked "Samples, without commercial value," to obviate the payment of import duty. The terms asked for are: One-third of invoice to accompany order, one-third on arrival of goods, and balance 90 days thereafter.

Indigo, No. 19538.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that an exporting firm in his district desires to find a market in the United States for indigo. Cable address given.

Photographic supplies, No. 19539.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that there is still a shortage in that country of photographic supplies, detailed information of which was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for August 5. A list of Spanish firms handling photographic goods may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices.

Machinery, No. 19540.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce informs the bureau that a firm of manufacturers' agents in France desires names and addresses of manufacturers of machinery for making tin boxes. Catalogues, price lists, and full information should be sent as soon as possible.

Brass hinges, No. 19541.—A report from a commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce states that he has an inquiry for names of manufacturers of brass hinges, 1 millimeter in gauge, 20 millimeters wide, and 3 meters in length.

Cash registers, agricultural implements, etc., No. 19542.—A report from an American consular officer in Russia states that a company in his district desires to communicate with manufacturers of cash registers, agricultural machines, typewriters, and drugs, with a view to becoming selling agent for same. Dimensions, weights, currency, and correspondence should be given in Russian, and prices quoted c. i. f. Russian port.

Bacon and butter, No. 19543.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm wishes to communicate with American exporters of bacon and butter. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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HORTICULTURAL CROPS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, Nov. 22.]

It has been officially estimated that at the beginning of November the horticultural crop conditions in southern France were approximately as follows: Olives, 40 per cent normal; market garden products, 65 per cent; walnuts and chestnuts, 75 per cent; apples and pears, 60 per cent; flowers, 50 per cent. The olive fly has caused considerable damage to the olive crop, which has not yet been gathered to any extent. The floral culture has suffered from the scarcity of competent labor and decreased demand.

USE OF AMERICAN SALT PORK IN DENMARK.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Nov. 18.]

About 25,000 pounds of American salted pork are being consumed daily in the city of Copenhagen. The pork must be sold at not over \$0.19028 per pound. Permission will be granted at the close of this month, it is thought, allowing Danish packers to smoke and cure American salted meats. A maximum price will also be established for these cured meats of about \$0.21708 per pound. There is no duty to be paid on these imported provisions, but the high freight charges from American seaports are a great drawback to a more extended movement.

NEW ZEALAND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 5.]

The estimated revenues of the New Zealand Government for 1915-16 as fixed by the revenue and tax laws in force at the beginning of the year have been placed at \$56,822,490, against \$60,556,414 for 1914-15. This deficiency has been more than provided for in special war taxes, principally on internal taxes, such as increased postage, bank-check tax, increased income and land tax, etc., and a 1 per cent surtax on all imports. It is estimated that these will bring the receipts up to about \$65,697,750, and a Government loan is to be placed for \$9,733,000 to cover internal improvements and construction work. It is proposed to continue public works this year as usual if labor is available.

SUBSIDY URGED FOR SPANISH LINE TO NEW YORK.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Nov. 12.]

The official statistics of the Spanish Navy and merchant marine show that on January 1, 1915, there were in Spain 217 sailing vessels and 640 steamers, with a total tonnage of 904,000, divided into 30,000 for sailing vessels and 874,000 for steamers. The total tonnage shows an advance over 1914 of 28,000 tons.

The principal shipowners of Spain are the *Compañía Trasatlántica* of Barcelona, which has a fleet of 22 vessels, with a tonnage of 102,000; *Pinillos y Compañía* of Cadiz, 11 vessels, with a tonnage of 55,000; *Soto y Aznar*, 30 vessels, exclusively for freight, with a tonnage of 86,000; and the *Vasco-Andaluza* of Ibarra y *Compañía*, of Seville, which has 29 steamers engaged in the coasting trade. Two of the steamers belonging to the *Compañía Trasatlántica* are of 10,000 tons each, and two of those belonging to *Pinillos y Compañía* are of slightly over 8,000 tons each.

The Spanish press calls attention to the fact that existing conditions are highly favorable to the development of the Spanish merchant marine, and the action of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce of New York in soliciting a subvention from the Spanish Government to facilitate the establishment of a line of steamers between Vigo, Spain, and New York, is approved. Should the present condition of the Spanish treasury not warrant the granting of such a subvention, it is proposed that the Spanish Government guarantee interest of 5 per cent on the capital that may be devoted to the enterprise, in order to give the movement a certain moral support and overcome any lack of confidence on the part of capitalists considering investment in the new line.

STREET RAILWAY AND POWER PLANT FOR HARBIN.

[Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, China, Nov. 5.]

It is reported that a company of Chinese and Russian capitalists has been organized under the name of "Energia" which plans to undertake the construction of an electric street railway and power plant for Harbin. The company has sent a statement to the municipal council which it asks the council to present before the general assembly of delegates for its consideration. The statement proposes that a joint stock company be organized and that the municipality be permitted to participate in the company on the condition that a proper franchise be granted and that a special committee appointed by the delegates for the purpose will draw up satisfactory arrangements for the terms and working of the company. It is stated that the company has purchased two special street railway engines of 6 horsepower each, with corresponding voltage, and that the machines are on their way to Harbin.

Sugar Crop of Japan.

The Board of Trade Journal (London) states that the new sugar crop of Japan is estimated at 4,900,000 piculs (about 5,883,333 hundredweight of 112 pounds) of centrifugal sugar and 500,000 piculs (about 595,238 hundredweight) of brown sugar.

THE WOOL CLIP IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 5.]

The wool clip of 1915 in New Zealand promises an average yield if it can be clipped in time. There is a shortage of sheep shearers and the price of shearing has advanced from \$4.86 per 100 head (the official scale rate) to \$5.46, offered by many of the owners of herds of sheep in order to get the work done in season. The sheep industry is prospering in this Dominion and the yield of wool is estimated at 575,000 bales for 1915 against 560,000 bales for 1914, and the export of frozen mutton and lamb has exceeded any previous year.

Wool Shipments to United States—Home Consumption.

Now that the embargo on the exportation of wool to the United States has been conditionally removed, arrangements are under way to make extensive shipments as soon as this season's clip is ready, which should be by the end of November, when better prices are expected to prevail, especially for the better grades. In reviewing the situation and outlook a leading daily of this city said, in part:

High prices for wool are likely to rule during the forthcoming season. There is expected to be the same healthy demand from Great Britain for the commodity. The New Zealand manufacturers with Defense Department orders to fill in addition to ordinary business will require at least as much as they did last year, and the export of wool to America is to be permitted, which will bring American wool buyers again into the market. The Americans were not allowed to operate at least season's sales of crossbred wools.

The New Zealand woolen mills are expected to consume about 20,000 bales, against 14,000 for last year, leaving 555,000 bales for export. Quite a large portion of the home consumption will be put into uniform material. Some of the woolen mills are working overtime, and more will do so if efficient operators can be found.

It seems clear that this will have a decidedly favorable influence over business relations with the United States. The outlook is brightening, and with six months more of energetic push on the part of American interests for this trade nearly normal conditions may be expected, with American imports well in advance of any previous record for New Zealand. In this connection I would warn American exporters against shipping anything to New Zealand below grades ordered, for it seriously affects business in general, not only for the present, but for the future.

STOCKS OF COTTON IN RUSSIA.

[Board of Trade Journal, London, Nov. 25.]

The Torgovo Promyshlennaya Gazette (Petrograd) of October 26 publishes an article to the effect that the committee attending to the question of stocks of raw cotton in Russia instituted a comprehensive inquiry on this subject on September 7. The result of the inquiry, which was recently concluded, shows that, according to replies received from spinners controlling 7,878,043 spindles, the cotton in stock at works or held by works in European Russia and in Central Asia, as well as cotton in transit, amounts to 502,167 bales of 500 pounds. In addition to the foregoing figures, it was estimated, according to replies received from 33 firms, that the total quantity of cotton held by cotton dealers and brokers, banks, and other intermediaries amounted to 148,728 bales.

TRADE OF PERU IN 1914.

[Board of Trade Journal, London, Nov. 25.]

The Boletín de las Aduanas del Perú (Callao) of September 4 publishes a review of the foreign trade of Peru in 1914, from which the following particulars are extracted:

The value of the total foreign trade of Peru in 1914 amounted to \$66,163,571, as compared with \$74,100,044 in 1913, a decrease of 10.7 per cent. This retrograde movement was due to the European war and was chiefly apparent in the import trade, which fell off 20.7 per cent. The fact that only a small decrease was shown in the value of the total exports (about 4 per cent) may be ascribed to the high prices paid for certain of the principal products of the country. The following table shows the shares of the principal countries in the import and export trade of Peru in 1913 and 1914:

Countries.	Imports into Peru.		Exports from Peru.	
	1913	1914	1913	1914
United States	\$8,541,934	\$7,643,928	\$14,761,355	\$14,827,700
United Kingdom	7,779,616	6,514,063	16,559,939	15,933,298
Germany	5,138,002	3,148,640	2,969,538	1,600,042
Belgium	1,869,412	1,336,321	1,214,177	267,394
Italy	1,238,393	981,242	7,567	40,857
France	1,365,014	759,047	1,568,590	743,889
Chile	1,036,939	436,126	5,854,959	6,239,534
Other countries	2,060,823	2,675,754	1,532,870	2,875,805
Total	29,631,033	23,496,121	44,469,011	42,668,450

Import Trade, by Articles.

The principal items contributing to the import trade were as follows in 1913 and 1914:

Articles.	1913	1914	Articles.	1913	1914
Fertilizers	\$286,583	\$90,896	Hemp and cotton thread..	\$234,590	\$188,996
Oils, industrial	745,514	664,297	Wood, furniture and cabi- net	1,521,871	1,528,126
Rice	546,313	404,891	Agricultural machinery	703,263	652,481
Boots and shoes	309,315	270,480	Industrial machinery	428,634	277,940
Coal	1,466,379	1,355,929	Foundry plant	1,049,933	788,261
Railway and tramway car- riages	548,313	252,226	Paper, plain and printed..	143,674	429,269
Cement	380,385	334,094	Rails and railway material ..	632,737	762,429
Pharmaceutical specialties.	348,948	281,809	Sacks, empty	450,964	438,778
Cotton, woolen, and silk goods	3,234,281	2,824,809	Hats	302,064	223,917
Iron in sheets and bars ..	547,802	863,343	Wheat	1,247,376	1,031,717
			Wines	276,617	164,969

Principal Exports and Their Values.

During the first seven months of 1914 the Peruvian export trade showed notable increases, and had it not been for the European war the year would have marked a record. The following table gives the values of the principal exports from Peru during the years 1913 and 1914:

Articles.	1913	1914	Articles.	1913	1914
Hides and skins	\$990,338	\$928,519	Petroleum and its products	\$4,430,106	\$4,324,722
Wool	2,515,460	2,470,182	Gold	821,572	30,586
Rice	380,692	305,443	Silver	2,836,376	2,753,456
Sugar	6,874,739	12,852,193	Copper	8,188,791	6,960,847
Cotton and cotton seed ..	7,615,313	7,378,358	Lead	251,072	187,126
Gums	3,970,207	2,179,180	Straw hats	577,629	246,966

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The imports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan, during the week ended December 4, 1915, were as follows:

Countries.	Ore, matte and regulus (copper contents).		Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.	
	Pounds.		Pounds.	
Canada.....	437,015	\$41,010	104,951	\$17,624
Chile.....	1,052,900	85,032		
Peru.....	247,973	39,578		
Total.....	1,777,888	165,620	104,951	17,624

The domestic exports of pigs, bars, etc., from the same customs districts amounted to 20,332,169 pounds, valued at \$3,802,107. The principal countries of destination follow:

Countries.	Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.		Countries.	Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.		Countries.	Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.	
	Pounds.	Value.		Pounds.	Value.		Pounds.	Value.
Denmark ..	671,964	\$122,453	Spain	275,548	\$52,897	Russia in		
France.....	7,871,554	1,418,985	England... 5,703,529	1,126,708	74,502	Asia	1,905,659	\$362,076
Italy.....	1,725,041	315,212	Scotland... 392,155	74,502		All other		
Nether-			Canada	87,531	17,375	countries	168,059	32,657
lands	44,785	8,509	Cuba	451,636	83,549	Total	20,332,169	3,802,107
Norway	225,734	40,963	Brazil	130,268	24,447			
Russia.....	675,715	121,767						

AGRICULTURAL RETURNS FOR SCOTLAND.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Nov. 22.]

The Board of Agriculture has issued a preliminary statement showing the estimated total yield of wheat, barley, oats, beans, and hay in Scotland in 1915 compared with 1914. The figures follow:

Crops.	1914	1915	Crops.	1914	1915
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>		<i>Tons.^a</i>	<i>Tons.^a</i>
Wheat.....	2,560,816	2,969,288	Hay:		
Barley.....	7,343,400	5,025,280	From rotation grass..	629,159	543,027
Oats.....	36,920,800	39,081,424	From permanent		
Beans.....	235,424	195,352	grass.....	154,856	142,906
			From timothy mead-		
			ows.....	85,459	79,340

^a Long ton of 2,240 pounds.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

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COMMERCE OF THE PORT OF SANTOS.

[Consul Charles L. Latham, Santos, Brazil.]

The value of the imports into the port of Santos, Brazil, from foreign countries for the first nine months of 1915, according to the data collected by the Secretary of Agriculture of the State of Sao Paulo, was \$27,077,266, compared with \$33,111,704 for the same period in 1914.

Although there was a large decrease for the 1915 period the imports from the United States increased in value by nearly \$1,000,000, and the imports from Argentina show a considerable increase. The import trade by countries into the port for the first nine months of 1914 and 1915 follows:

Countries.	Jan.-Sept., 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.	Countries.	Jan.-Sept., 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.
Germany	\$4,764,495	\$766,554	Great Britain.....	\$5,634,138	\$4,963,391
Argentina	3,990,704	6,067,064	Italy	3,599,257	3,130,911
Austria-Hungary	409,529	49,478	Portugal.....	1,470,504	1,066,439
Belgium	1,280,481	48,516	Other countries.....	3,497,391	3,642,593
United States	5,206,130	6,503,435	Total	33,111,704	27,077,266
France	2,168,775	1,118,885			

Principal Articles of Import.

Some of the principal articles and their value imported into the port for the nine months are given below:

Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.	Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.
Cotton in bales and manufactured articles.....	\$1,554,043	\$1,109,920	Spun jute and hemp for sacking.....	\$947,424	\$264,889
Steel in bars and in manufactured articles.....	3,145,664	1,917,296	Raw jute and hemp.....	644,184	1,378,181
Industrial machinery.....	404,775	207,833	Coal.....	1,727,456	1,017,290
Agricultural machinery.....	72,953	31,833	Kerosene.....	437,198	594,315
Various machinery and machinery parts.....	2,919,239	1,019,926	Rice.....	30,351	605,216
Chemical products and pharmaceutical specialties.....	835,688	1,011,452	Dried codfish.....	562,289	1,835,911
Skin and leather prepared for manufacture.....	675,208	842,672	Wine, fine and common.....	2,439,487	2,316,739
			Various foodstuffs.....	2,965,897	43,539
			Paper and metal money.....		

Increased Export Trade.

In contrast to the decreased import value there was an increase of \$7,500,000 in the exports of the port during the first nine months of 1915 compared with the same period in 1914. The United States was far in the lead in the value of purchases, as shown by the following table of exports by countries:

Countries.	Jan.-Sept., 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.	Countries.	Jan.-Sept., 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.
Germany	\$7,346,449	.....	Spain.....	\$695,630	\$597,619
Argentina	1,331,525	\$1,387,978	Holland	7,494,827	11,113,402
Austria-Hungary	2,927,309	.....	Italy	1,451,074	2,336,412
Belgium	2,031,418	.....	Norway	50,073	1,444,713
Denmark	152,145	1,488,906	Sweden	780,276	7,786,735
United States.....	32,973,071	33,700,791	Other countries.....	550,357	726,172
France	5,203,438	8,680,854	Total	65,220,573	72,720,687
Great Britain.....	2,082,581	3,313,107			

The principal articles of export and their value follow:

Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.	Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.
Coffee.....	\$64,582,576	\$71,156,350	Bean.....	\$41,412	\$49,515
Chilled meat.....		577,034	Bananas.....	402,942	349,308
Rubber.....	3,115	6,228			

The quantity of coffee exported in the 1915 period was 7,809,554 sacks against 5,325,527 sacks for the first nine months of 1914.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argen- tina.	Dec. 31	Branch office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, New York, N. Y.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a) Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	
Oakeshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Com- merce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washing- ton, D. C.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

INDIGO CROP OF BRITISH INDIA.

[Board of Trade Journal, London, Nov. 25.]

The Gazette of India (Simla) of October 16 publishes a first forecast of the 1915-16 indigo crop in British India, based upon reports received from the six Provinces that contain practically the whole area under indigo in British India.

The total area is estimated at 258,100 acres, as compared with 116,500 acres in the previous crop year. The season has, on the whole, been successful except in Bihar and Orissa, and in the Punjab. Estimates of yield are not ordinarily given at this stage, but provisional estimates have been made in the special circumstances of this year, and the total yield is placed at 38,500 hundredweight of 112 pounds. The final forecast for the 1914-15 season estimated the indigo yield for that season at 24,900 hundredweight.

RUSSIAN FERTILIZER INDUSTRY.

[Board of Trade Journal, London, Nov. 25.]

The following information regarding the artificial-fertilizer industry in Russia is extracted from an article that appeared in the Russian press.

Chemical fertilizers are comparatively little used in Russia, owing partly to the primitive and unintensive methods of cultivation, and partly to the difficulty of obtaining an adequate supply of manure. Artificial manure stands at a price that renders it inaccessible to a large number of farmers.

The principal kind of chemical fertilizer in use in Russia is phosphates, which are imported in considerable quantities from western Europe. Although there are in Russia various phosphate deposits, they have been little exploited, and the bulk of the quantity used has been imported. Factories producing phosphates hardly exist in the interior of Russia, and until this state of affairs is changed the present high prices for imported fertilizers must continue to be paid. Nevertheless, experiments in the use of such fertilizers have proved so satisfactory that recently their use has considerably developed.

Of the total supply about 79 per cent has come from abroad and the remainder from Russian manufacturers. The greater part of the fertilizers manufactured in Russia came from factories in Poland, which in consequence of the war were obliged to decrease their output.

Importance of Alkali Production in Russia.

The alkaline salts that were imported from Germany to the extent of over 1,607,000 hundredweight might to some degree be replaced by ashes, which at present are unused. Alkaline salts are produced only by some small factories that make potash from sunflower seeds and tobacco, exclusively for export. The importance of alkali for many industries, which in the past have depended upon imports of this material from Germany, renders the question of the production of this article in Russia worthy of the most serious consideration. Experiments made by the Moscow Agricultural Institute have shown the possibility of producing alkaline salts of high percentage from the products of the Crimean salt industry. There are also deposits in the districts of Iletzkaya Zashchita and the borders of the White Sea, containing a mineral yielding alkali and phosphorus, which have not yet been touched. Further progress has been made with the exploitation of alkaline deposits near Kalusha in Russian Galicia.

Phosphate Manures—Fostering the Industry.

Phosphate manures are of first-rate importance for Russia, and out of the total quantity of artificial manures (13,000,000 hundredweight) used during the last year, about 11,000,000 hundredweight were of this kind. Of these about 6,000,000 hundredweight were superphosphates, and about 5,000,000 hundredweight basic slag. The home production of basic slag is centered in three factories in Sartan, Taganrog, and Kertch, with an annual output of 1,250,000 hundredweight; that of superphosphates (7 factories) has reached a little over 2,000,000 hundredweight. This backwardness of the industry is explained by the expense of the installation of factory plants, due to the high tariff on machinery, apparatus, acid-resisting bricks, and sacks. Another circumstance limiting the development of the in-

dustry is the distribution of the factories, which are all either in Poland or near the sea, working on foreign raw material from Africa, America, Sweden, and Spain. Since 1908 a geological survey carried out by the Moscow Agricultural Institute has revealed the existence of phosphate deposits in the surveyed districts to an estimated amount of nearly 291,000,000 tons. The Ministry of Agriculture has also attempted to foster the development of the superphosphate industry in the central and eastern regions and to interest the chemical factories along the Volga in its possibilities.

BIRTH REGISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Director Sam. L. Rogers, of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, has recently inaugurated the collection annually of birth statistics within an area comprising the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Minnesota, and the District of Columbia. This area, although it represents barely 10 per cent of the territorial extent of continental United States, has a population of approximately 31,150,000, or about 31 per cent of the total for the country.

The collection of both birth and death statistics was authorized by the permanent census act, approved March 6, 1902. This act, however, provided that the statistics should be obtained only from the registration records of such States and municipalities as in the judgment of the Director of the Census possessed records affording satisfactory data in the necessary detail. Ever since the passage of this act the Census Bureau has made annual collections of mortality statistics from a steadily increasing area, which now contains about two-thirds of the total population of the United States, but until recently very few of the States have maintained reliable birth-registration systems.

In this respect the United States has lagged far behind a number of the leading foreign countries, in some of which—such as England, France, Germany, Norway, and Sweden—adequate birth-registration systems have been in operation for many years. A beginning has now been made in this country, however, and the statistics will relate to an area having a population of such size and heterogeneity as to render them of great value and significance.

The data now being gathered will show birth rates for the population as a whole and for the white and colored races. Separate figures will also be given for urban and rural localities.

POPULATION OF GUAYAS PROVINCE, ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Nov. 16.]

The civil registry office in Guayaquil has furnished the following figures on the population in several parishes of the Province of Guayas: Guayaquil, 105,000; Sanborondon, 5,000; Victoria, 2,000; Taura, 2,000; Pascuales, 300; Naranjal, 4,000; Balao, 1,000; Jesus Maria, 500; Puna, 600; Morro, 1,000; Chongon, 400; Posorja, 600; Duran, 1,000; Playas, 400; a total of 123,800. A census of other parishes is being taken and figures will be transmitted when available.

American exporters should observe that in the immediate vicinity of Guayaquil there are more than 123,800 people whose necessities must be supplied largely from the exterior.

MINERAL OUTPUT OF INDIA.

[Board of Trade Journal, London, Nov. 25.]

According to the report of the chief inspector of mines in India for 1914, the output of coal in that country last year was 15,727,631 tons, an increase of 241,313 tons over the output of 1913. This is the smallest increase since 1910. In the early part of the year the output was reduced by the effects of the previous year's floods, but the main cause of the small increase was undoubtedly the war. Of the total output, 15,075,587 tons were mined in Bihar and Bengal. There has recently been a great advance in the use of electricity in the coal mines of Bihar and Bengal for haulage, pumping, ventilation, etc. Over 135 motors, generating 4,500 horsepower, are now installed.

The output of manganese was 555,672 tons, a decrease from the figures for 1913 of 81,719 tons, but an increase over the figures for the two or three years preceding. In 1914 the gold yield of the preceding year was nearly doubled, being 19,873 ounces, compared with 11,019 ounces in 1913. Copper production amounted to 4,400 tons, as compared with 3,639 tons in 1913. There was again an increase in the production of wolfram, which was 31,526 hundredweight, as compared with 27,520 hundredweight in 1913. An output of 9,280 hundredweight of bauxite was reported last year from the Jabalpur district in the Central Provinces, the mine having been unworked from 1910 to 1913. For the first time a yield of 16 pounds of pitchblende and 200 hundredweight of triplite are shown, both from a mine in the district of Gaya (Dihar and Orissa). From quarries in the Amherst district 125,348 tons of granite were taken. There were increases in the production of iron, slate, clay, fuller's earth, limestone, galena, and samarskite, and decreases in salt, chromite, corundum, magnesite, tin, and steatite.

The report of the chief inspector of mines is not a complete statistical review of mineral production in India. There must be a considerable output from quarries that are under 20 feet deep, which are outside the scope of the Indian mines act of 1901.

[A report on the output of mica in India in 1914 was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 26, 1915.]

DEMAND FOR NEW ZEALAND CHEESE.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 5.]

Great Britain has placed an order in New Zealand for cheese for the use of the Army to the value of \$4,866,500, which is about one-fifth of the estimated production of cheese in this Dominion for this season. It is expected this will keep the wholesale price of cheese about 15 cents per pound for several months and thus give the industry a boom.

The New Zealand Government has arranged to take over one-fifth of the product of each of the factories in the country at a fixed price at the time of delivery. The price at present is 14 cents per pound.

The value of cheese exported for the 12 months ended September 30, 1915, amounted to \$12,279,002, while the value of the butter exported for the same period was \$11,608,101. Less butter is being produced this season, since it has been more profitable to produce cheese, for it is more easily prepared for export. Consequently it is estimated that the output of the cheese factories of this country will reach a value of at least \$24,332,500, which means much to a country with a population of less than 1,200,000 people.

BANKING CAPITAL IN COLOMBIA.

[Consul Isaac A. Manning, Barranquilla, Nov. 11.]

The Bogotá Chamber of Commerce, in its study of the necessity of organizing or establishing new banks in Colombia with foreign capital, reports the following banks in the Republic with their paid-up capital:

Banks.	Amount.	Banks.	Amount.
Bogotá:		Cartagena:	
Banco de Colombia.....	\$600,000	Banco de Bolívar.....	\$500,000
Banco de Bogotá.....	700,000	Barranquilla:	
Banco Central.....	2,300,000	Banco Comercial.....	250,000
Banco Hipotecario.....	600,000	Cali:	
Medellín:		Banco Comercial.....	160,000
Banco de Sucre.....	1,000,000	Pasto:	
Banco Alemán Antioqueño.....	800,000	Banco del Sur.....	500,000
Banco Republicano.....	200,000	Popayán:	
Manizales:		Banco de Popayán.....	20,000
Banco de Manizales.....	140,000	Banco del Estado.....	20,000
Banco de Caldas.....	200,000		
Tunja:			
Banco de Boyacá.....	40,000		

This list shows a capitalization of \$7,830,000, which the chamber considers inadequate for the proper banking business of the country. This does not include, however, many strong banks and private banking concerns, such as the Crédito Mercantil and V. Dugand & Son. in Barranquilla, and El Banco Union, of Cartagena. It is probable, however, that the entire actual banking capital of Colombia (outside of commission houses doing a banking or exchange business in connection with their commission business) will not exceed \$10,000,000 or \$11,000,000, or about \$2 per capita of the population.

TIN ORE FOR SMELTING IN UNITED STATES.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Chile, Nov. 3.]

Until the present year the tin ore produced in Bolivia has been shipped to Europe for smelting or has been treated in Bolivia. An arrangement has recently been made by which the tin ore produced by some of the mining companies of Bolivia will be shipped to the United States to be treated in the smelter being erected for that purpose by the American Smelting and Refining Co., at Perth Amboy, N. J.

The largest part of this ore will be from the mines of the Cia. Estañífera de Llallagua, located at Llallagua, on the eastern cordillera of Bolivia. About 600 to 700 tons of concentrates, bearing 60 to 70 per cent of tin, will be shipped monthly. Shipments will probably be made via the Chilean port of Arica and will begin in December of this year. Other tin ore which will go to the United States will be from the mines of the Cia. Minera de Oruro, near the city of that name. The ores of Oruro are primarily silver ores. After the silver has been taken out a small quantity of tin remains in the tailings. These are reworked, with the result that a 60 per cent tin concentrate is available for shipment. Some tin ore from near La Paz will also be shipped to the United States.

Besides the ores which will go to the new smelter at Perth Amboy, it is rumored that purchases have been made for one or more detinning plants in the United States, in which some experiments have been carried on with a view to utilizing tin ore in addition to the material usually refined in such plants for the recovery of tin.

AMERICAN TRADE RESULTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 12.]

Work done at the Auckland consulate general, as indicated by accounts of actual business results and prospective business, promises a big increase in American imports to New Zealand for the balance of 1915.

A trade opportunity published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* June 16, 1915, showing a demand for dehydrated onions, brought the following note from interested persons in Auckland:

Several of the firms addressed sent us samples, and we have selected what we think is the one best suited to our needs, and have made a tentative offer for a supply, provided the goods can be packed in accordance with requirements.

A trade opportunity published June 15, 1915, on the market for textiles brought the following in reply to my inquiry:

Replying to your esteemed inquiry of the 22d ultimo, I have pleasure in reporting that, as a result of our interview and your kind assistance, a number of useful replies have been received to our correspondence and, although no definite arrangement has been made or business yet resulted, I have requested several firms to at once forward samples to order from. I shall be obliged if you will continue your efforts to bring us into communication with suitable American manufacturers, particularly of hosiery and woolen goods.

Put into Touch with American Manufacturers.

Through letters of introduction given to a business man by consul general J. I. Brittain last January and his cablegram of February 3, this business man formed satisfactory connections, as shown by a note received here, which states:

On arrival at New York I presented a letter of introduction, so kindly given by your Mr. Brittain. The office communicated with the New York Merchants' Association, who took the matter in hand, and within a very short space of time was in communication with the principal manufacturers of the States. Before leaving I placed orders for glass with two companies, and at repeated intervals we have been passing orders along. At the present time we have had from America, glass to the value of £6,592 (\$32,080), with several orders yet incomplete.

A cablegram to the department on June 25 and two other Trade Opportunities have not yet brought definite results, but may later, as shown by a letter from the director of the New Zealand Home Builders (Ltd.), who received quite a number of catalogues and price lists through the article which appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS*, but stated personally that in most instances prices were too high, especially for galvanized corrugated iron and sheets, builders' hardware, etc.

There is a demand here for more American lumber, if the field is well worked.

The manager of a mail-order house has the following to say regarding the way he was treated by the heads of the large mail-order houses, while visiting the United States, on presenting letters of introduction from consul general J. I. Brittain, before he left for Sydney:

The managers of these great institutions themselves spent, in many cases, more than a whole day personally giving me the most intimate information about their business, and, not content with this, they invited me to their homes, entertained me at dinner, and ran me over the cities in their autos. It would be impossible to travel in any country and receive better treatment at the hands of business men than was extended to me by those of your Republic. Incidentally I purchased three motor cars on behalf of members of our family, besides conferring with our New York buying house on general business. This war has, of course, considerably increased our business with America, as a great many Continental lines, especially in hardware, are now being purchased by us

from your country. I wish you to accept my sincere thanks for the valuable help extended to me by your service here and especially for the manner in which it was done.

Letters of Introduction Bring Results.

Letters introducing another business man to several persons in the United States brought good results, as indicated by the following extract from a letter he wrote:

I delivered your letter to the commissioner at Chicago, who immediately brought me in touch with two hosiery companies. I was able to make satisfactory arrangements.

I made the acquaintance of your Mr. Porter at New York, and had a most interesting chat concerning the New Zealand and Australian markets. Since my return I have found that business is so good and the demand for American goods so great that I was obliged to form a limited company, with headquarters at Sydney, and put on a good selling force to cope with the increased business. Consequently I am now in a position to control further representation from American manufacturers, and we would now be pleased to receive any correspondence accordingly.

As a result of a call at this consulate general relative to the manufacture of envelopes, I have to report that a trial order was placed with an American envelope company to the value of \$800, and this firm feels quite sure much more will follow along this line. Later I sent in a Trade Opportunity for the firm, covering several lines it desired to handle, and I feel sure it will bring good results. The following extract is from a letter sent by a New York man:

I now wish to offer you my sincere thanks for your kindness in placing my name before interested parties in your consular district, and to advise you that through the efforts of this most efficient service I have been brought in touch with many desirable distributors and consumers, and I have thereby been able to make valuable connections, which I could not otherwise have done.

Since posting my last letter the world conditions have been changing rapidly, and more of the world's merchants and manufacturers are daily finding it necessary to purchase American supplies, and I shall thoroughly appreciate your giving my name to any other parties whom you think I can serve in a purchasing capacity.

Besides the above there were many who called at this consulate general during the quarter to consult the trade journals on file in the reading room and to inquire relative to trade conditions and openings at home. This class of work is on the increase, and some days takes up much of the time of the office force, but with good results.

ADVERTISING PRICES IN AMERICAN PERIODICALS.

[Consul Milton B. Kirk, Orillia, Canada, Nov. 22.]

Practically all important American periodicals, newspapers, and trade journals are read in Canada. It has been noted that as a general rule American advertisers give one price for their merchandise, which is the sale price in the United States. Purchasers who wish to buy these advertised American goods in Canada are disappointed when they find that these advertised goods can not be bought, usually, at the price advertised in the American periodicals, etc. Therefore, if the Canadian sale price could be mentioned close to the American sale price or a note made that the articles advertised would cost more in Canada, people who desire to buy the articles here would make provision for paying the advanced price. Many purchasers refuse to buy an article that they see advertised for 10 cents, if when reaching the stores they find that the article will cost them 15 cents. They are very likely to pass over the advertised article and buy something "just as good" at 10 cents.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 2833.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for supplying the following. Firms desiring to submit proposals should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving schedule numbers desired: Schedule 9100, amorphous graphite and flake lubricating graphite; schedule 9110, 36 by 72 inch platform trucks; schedule 9111, engine bodies, steering engines, shafts (main) and cranks, and valve groups and bodies; schedule 9112, war head attachment boxes, pressed sheet-steel bulkheads, cold-rolled copper containers, tin containers, galvanized-iron tanks, drawn-brass cups, screwdrivers, and taper square-end wrenches; schedule 9113, high resistance telephone receivers; schedule 9114, windlass; schedule 9115, 15 K. W. generating sets; schedule 9116, excavating, hauling, and spreading earth; schedule 9117, lathe; schedule 9118, 1 K. W. radio transmitting set; schedule 9119, khaki cotton duck leggings, and low shoes; schedule 9120, 100-pound wheat flour export bags; schedule 9121, sounding tubes; schedule 9122, pure sperm oil; schedule 9123, 108 square foot rolls of 2-ply ready roofing; schedule 9124, single and duplex rubber-covered wire and weatherproof wire; schedule 9125, spun cotton, unbleached cotton thread, and cotton furniture covering; schedule 9126, alcohol, red lead in paste form, and petrolatum; schedule 9127, compressed sheet cork, window glass, lead pipe, pure rolled silver anodes, and terneplate roofing tin; schedule 9128, Louisiana 1½-inch red cypress, and sawn yellow pine; schedule 9129, worm-gear chain blocks, direct differential blocks, miscellaneous machinists' files, 30-inch wide brass gauze, flathead copper cut nails, sheet garnet paper, hammock rings, brass machine screws, brass and iron wood screws, and flat-head copper cut tacks; schedule 9130, carbide of silicon fire sand; schedule 9131, interior communication cable, telephone cable, plain double conductor wire, plain single conductor wire, glass water gauges for boilers, and twin conductor wire; schedule 9132, chain iron; schedule 9133, medium bar steel, class B boiler plate steel, medium steel channels, cold-rolled machinery steel, medium, and classes An and B bar steel, class B billet and slab steel, medium hull plate steel, medium rivet steel, sheet steel, corrugated sheet steel, and class An slab steel; schedule 9134, medium steel for grate bars, and class B boiler plate steel; schedule 9135, single conductor cable, side outlet current taps, and double conductor telephone wire; schedule 9136, night binoculars, deck clocks and keys for same, circular and straight line diving engines, objective lenses for spyglasses, sextant mirrors, stadimeter mirrors, psychrometers and 50 pairs of thermometers for same, and 18-inch Sibsbee (parallel) rulers; schedule 9137, 26 by 40 inch binders' board, condensers, tanks, valves, etc., outfits, and medium bar steel; schedule 9138, lathe arbors, etc., machinists' clamps, file brushes, emery wheel dressers, hand drills, etc., and steel measuring tapes; schedule 9139, fire-control telephones; and schedule 9140, taps, dies, etc.

Medical supplies, No. 2834.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, 543 Greenwich Street, New York City, until December 20, 1915, for furnishing medical supplies, such as medicines, basins, beds, cribs, ice breakers, dressing buckets, medicine cabinets, hospital chairs, uterine dilator, forceps, needle holders, harvest straw hats, hand-power potato masher, scissors, syringes, instrument stands, etc., rubber bulbs, double boilers, collanders, pudding dishes, jelly moulds, etc., frying pans, etc., muffin rings, cake turners, etc. Proposals will also be received at the same address until December 22, 1915, for furnishing glass demijohns, packing boxes, quart bottles, sawdust bags, tin-foil caps, corks of various kinds, sealing wax, etc.

Clearing site, No. 2835.—Sealed proposals will be received until January 5, 1916, at the office of the custodian, United States Post Office and Customhouse, Newport, R. I., for clearing the site for the new post office and customhouse at Newport, in accordance with specifications, etc., copies of which may be had on application to the custodian.

Electric light, telephone, and clock installations, No. 2836.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until January 4, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., material required for electric light, telephone, and clock installations for west main cell wing, in accordance with specifications, copies of which, together with further information, may be had on application to the Washington office.

BISCUITS, PRESERVES, AND CANDIES IN SOUTH CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 12.]

The development of the biscuit and cracker manufacturing industry in Hongkong promises to be rapid in the near future. As noted in a report published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 31, 1915, biscuits manufactured in Hongkong and Shanghai have recently come to compete seriously with imported biscuits and cakes, most of which heretofore have come from England but a considerable portion of which came from the United States. Subsequently it was found that the Shanghai product was not able to hold its own with the output of Hongkong factories. The Hongkong goods heretofore have been manufactured almost entirely by hand. The proprietor of the largest factory, however [whose name may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69550], is leaving for the United States to buy a complete outfit of American biscuit-manufacturing machinery and intends to install a modern biscuit-manufacturing plant complete in all details. Local biscuits are now being packed in a similar manner to the biscuits imported from England. American biscuits, especially soda crackers, have been popular in the south China field in the past and for a time there were prospects of a good trade being built up. The fact that a number of shipments of such goods spoiled because they were unsuited to the hot climate has interfered seriously with the extension of the trade.

American jams, jellies, preserves, and similar sugar goods, and American pickles of all sorts came to have a large share of the south China trade before the opening of the war. Since the war they practically dominate the market. The goods imported are usually of the higher class, the chief obstacle to a further development of the trade being their high price.

American confectionery also holds the trade in high-class goods, though the old-time English trade in cheap chocolate and similar confectionery is still maintained. The advantage in proper packing of such goods is still with the British and Continental manufacturers, although great improvement in American methods is to be noted and some American goods come in condition beyond criticism. While most of the confectionery imported comes from the Pacific coast, a considerable quantity of high-class goods from the Eastern States is also sold.

Consul Charles L. Latham, of Santos, reports that during October 1,625,243 bags (weighing 60 kilos, or 132.38 pounds, each) of coffee were exported from that Brazilian port, as contrasted with 1,015,725 bags in September and 1,125,295 in August.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices.]

Shoe laces, No. 19556.—A commercial agent of the bureau's branch office in Chicago submits a letter from a business man in Egypt requesting samples of shoe laces of all kinds, together with lowest prices and conditions of sale. It is stated that the inquirer is ready to pay cash for purchases and would like to become a representative for manufacturers of this article.

Glass and paints, No. 19557.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a firm in Peru desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of glass and paints. The inquirer would prefer to act as agent, but in case this is not practicable he will consider carrying a stock of a reasonable quantity of above-named articles. Correspondence may be in French, Spanish, or English, and prices in American currency.

Presses for roofing tiles, No. 19558.—An American consular officer in Australia reports that a company in his district wishes to communicate with manufacturers of presses for the production of concrete or cement roofing tiles. Catalogues, prices, and terms should be sent as soon as possible.

Gasoline, lubricating oils, etc., No. 19559.—A representative of a large mercantile house informs an American consular officer in Chile that he desires to secure an agency for his district and surrounding territory of a standard brand of gasoline, lubricating oils, and kerosene. Literature, prices, and samples are requested. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Wool grease, etc., No. 19560.—A report from an American consular officer in Italy states that a business man desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers desiring agents in Italy for all kinds of wool grease and wool pitch. Bank references are given. Correspondence may be in English.

Soap, No. 19561.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a company in Cuba requesting the names and addresses of manufacturers of soap that can be used in hard water. The inquirer states that the only available water is too hard for common soap used for bathing purposes.

Copper and brass, No. 19562.—A Portuguese firm informs an American consular officer that it is anxious to get in touch with exporters of copper and brass in sheets, tubes, and bars. Quotations should be c. i. f. port of destination and correspondence in Portuguese or French.

Chemical products, No. 19563.—A firm in Italy informs an American consular officer that it desires to represent manufacturers of chemical products. References are given. Correspondence should be in Italian or French.

Railroad cross-ties and lumber, No. 19564.—A commission firm in Portugal is in the market for oak railway ties 2.70 to 2.75 meters long, 13 to 14 centimeters high, and 23 to 26 centimeters wide, and 3,000 cubic meters of white-oak planks 3.50 meters by 30 centimeters by 20 centimeters, and 1,000 cubic meters pine boards 4 meters by 25 centimeters by 25 to 30 centimeters.

Buckles, pad plates, etc., No. 19565.—A representative of a harness and saddlery firm in Chile is anxious to receive literature in Spanish, samples, terms, and prices of all kinds of metal accessories required in his business, such as buckles, pad plates, rings, bars, trimmings, etc., and also samples of fine leather for trimmings.

Mercerized cotton yarn, No. 19566.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm in the Far East desires to get in touch with American manufacturers or exporters of mercerized cotton yarn, numbers 100/2, 60/2, and 60/2 in bleached and all the principal colors, particularly yellow, pink, red, green, and violet. The yarn is put up in skeins, with 2 pounds to the bundle, and packed in cases containing 100 to 200 pounds. The firm is prepared to pay cash in New York when the yarn is shipped. Correspondence may be in English, and samples and prices (c. i. f. port of destination, if possible) should be sent with the first communication.

Cotton duck, hosiery, etc., No. 19567.—A letter to the Bureau from a business man in Argentina states that he wishes to represent American firms manufacturing cotton duck; hosiery for men, women, and children; handkerchiefs; and cotton, silk, linen, and wool materials by the yard.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 295 Washington, D. C., Friday, December 17 1915

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FRENCH CROPS FOR 1915.

[Cablegram from American Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, dated Dec. 13.]

The French Minister of Agriculture publishes the following crop estimates: Potatoes, 9,057,092 metric tons against 11,992,713 tons in 1914; sugar beets, 1,508,233 tons against 3,751,066 tons; distillery beets, 654,033 tons against 2,309,480 tons; fodder beets, 14,322,555 tons against 21,792,825 tons; tobacco, 15,491 tons against 24,173 tons; hops, 2,433 tons against 3,191 tons; forage hay grass, etc., 41,241,344 tons against 44,498,777 tons.

[Estimates of the cereal crops were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 5, 1915.]

CHANGES IN BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Dec. 14.]

The exportation of magnesite, caustic or lightly calcined, and dead burnt magnesite has been prohibited to all destinations, and the exportation of beeswax to all destinations except British possessions. The item "Coal, all kinds, and coke made in gas works, not including coal allowed by the customs to be shipped as bunker coal in list of goods," included in the list of products prohibited to all destinations except British possessions, has been altered to read, "Coal, all kinds, and coke, but not including coal allowed to be shipped as bunker coal." The exportation of silica bricks and of all articles wholly or principally of copper or its alloys not formerly under embargo is now prohibited to all countries in Europe except France, Russia, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Consular Trade-Extension Work in Spain.

In July over 32,000 metric tons of wheat were bought from the United States by Barcelona merchants. In June, July, and August 85,147 tons of American coal were imported—in marked contrast to the 33,717 tons imported during the whole of 1914. Knitting-machine needles have been purchased in large quantities, as well as American haberdashery, electric supplies, chemicals, petroleum, ice-making machinery, cotton, and motor trucks. These are among the known results of recent trade-extension work by Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, who is stationed in that Spanish commercial center.

ABLE SEAMEN ON FOREIGN VESSELS.

A circular from Secretary of Commerce Redfield, in relation to able seamen on foreign vessels departing from ports of the United States on or after March 4, 1916, has been issued by the United States Bureau of Navigation and the United States Steamboat-Inspection Service. The requirements of the law are explained to collectors of customs, supervising and local inspectors of the Steamboat-Inspection Service, and others concerned. This circular, numbered 268, says:

Section 13 of the seamen's act of March 4, 1915, will apply to all foreign vessels of 100 tons gross and upward (except those navigating rivers exclusively and the smaller inland lakes, and except fishing or whaling vessels or yachts) which depart from any port of the United States on or after March 4, 1916.

2. The section provides that 40 per centum in the first year after that date, 45 per centum in the second year, 50 per centum in the third year, 55 per centum in the fourth year, and thereafter 65 per centum of the vessel's deck crew, exclusive of licensed officers and apprentices, shall be of a rating not less than able seaman.

3. An able seaman, to conform to the requirements of the section, must have the following qualifications:

(a) He must be 19 years of age or upward.

(b) He must have had at least three years service on deck at sea or on the Great Lakes on a vessel or vessels of 100 tons gross or upward, including decked fishing vessels (not including vessels navigating rivers exclusively and smaller inland lakes, and not including whaling vessels or yachts or fishing vessels, unless the fishing vessels are decked fishing vessels). Service on deck in foreign naval vessels or foreign vessels similar to vessels of the United States Coast Guard may be included.

(c) He must have been found competent upon examination as to eyesight, hearing, and physical condition under rules prescribed by the Department of Commerce. The rules so prescribed are set forth in Form 983, Steamboat-Inspection Service, File S. This examination in the case of able seamen on foreign vessels may be conducted by the proper authorities of the country of which the seamen are citizens or subjects.

(d) Section 13 also provides for a special class of able seamen who may compose not more than one-fourth of the number of able seamen required on a vessel. Able seamen may qualify for this special class after having served on deck twelve months at sea or on the Great Lakes, but in addition to the examination mentioned in paragraph (c) they must have been found competent upon examination as to knowledge of the duties of seamanship under rules prescribed by the Department of Commerce. The rules so prescribed are set forth in Commerce Department Circular No. 264, second edition, Steamboat-Inspection Service. This examination in the case of able seamen on foreign vessels may be conducted by the proper authorities of the country of which the seamen are citizens or subjects.

4. Section 13 does not require that able seamen on foreign vessels shall be furnished with certificates as such. The section, however, does provide that a collector of customs may, upon his own motion, and shall, upon the sworn information of any reputable citizen of the United States, setting forth that this section is not being complied with, cause a muster of the crew of any vessel to be made to determine the fact, and no clearance shall be given to any vessel failing to comply with the provisions of this section.

Accordingly, it may facilitate the dispatch of foreign vessels from American ports if the necessary proportion of the deck crews are so certificated, thus preventing the delay necessary to ascertain by inquiry and examination whether in fact the necessary number of the deck crew are able seamen within the intent of the section.

5. Certificates issued to able seamen by competent authorities of the countries of which the seamen are citizens or subjects will be accepted by Collectors of Customs as evidence that the able seamen so certificated comply with the requirements of section 13 of the Seamen's Act. These certificates should certify that the able seaman is of the prescribed age, has had the prescribed sea service, and has passed the examination as to eyesight, hearing, and physical condition, and, for the special class of short-term service men, has also passed the examination as to knowledge of the duties of seamanship.

6. This circular does not apply to able seamen on foreign vessels on the Great Lakes, who will be covered by another circular to be issued before the opening of navigation on the Great Lakes in the spring.

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,
Secretary.

AMERICAN LUMBER FOR AUSTRALIA.

The present depression in the American lumber industry has greatly increased the interest in the export trade and its possible development. For this reason the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has been sending out experts to study the possibilities of the most promising markets. The latest bulletin based on these investigations is "Australasian Markets for American Lumber," written by Franklin H. Smith, who has been studying the lumber situation in the Far East and in Australia and New Zealand for a year or more.

Australia is particularly interesting to American lumbermen, because the island continent depends almost wholly on foreign supplies of soft, easily worked woods. The native timber is tough, difficult to season, and very hard to work. In normal times the total imports of timber are valued at \$13,000,000, and of this quantity the United States furnishes about \$7,000,000 worth, or more than half. American exports, however, consist mostly of undressed timber, and Mr. Smith's report is concerned largely with the prospects of increasing our sales of dressed timber, which has heretofore come mainly from the Baltic regions. Since the war started Australians have not had steady intercourse with the Scandinavian countries and there have been increased sales of our dressed products. American flooring especially has had an opportunity to prove its undoubtedly good qualities.

A very interesting suggestion by Mr. Smith is that a serious attempt be made to popularize the American bungalow style of dwelling in Australia, and in that way broaden the field for American lumber. No type of house could be better adapted for the suburban sections of the larger cities, yet thousands of brick or stone houses have been put up and roofed with unsightly corrugated iron.

There are many other suggestions in the bulletin, as well as chapters on such important matters as tariffs, native timber resources, foreign trade, the principal lumber markets, and the lumber trade of New Zealand. The booklet is issued as Special Agents Series No. 109, and is sold at the nominal price of 5 cents by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington. Mr. Smith's other bulletins cover the lumber trade in the Philippines, Japan, China, and Indo-China, and there is one relating to the teak industry of Siam and Indo-China.

REGULATIONS FOR EXAMINING SIRUP IN SWEDEN.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has received from the Swedish Legation at Washington a copy in English of the Swedish regulations for the examination of sirup which were adopted on March 17, 1915. The pamphlet may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69984.

LARGE CITIES GET BULK OF STEAM-LAUNDRY BUSINESS.

The preliminary statements from the United States Bureau of the Census, relating to the figures for steam laundries in the several States for 1914, show a strong tendency, throughout the country, for laundries located in the large communities to do the bulk of the business. Figures along this line which have been published are:

More than one-half of the laundry business in Alabama is in the city of Birmingham, whose 10 establishments have 58.1 per cent of the total capital, pay out 54.2 per cent of the total for services, and receive 55.5 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 49.2 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

The greater part of the laundry business in Colorado is in the city of Denver, whose 39 establishments have 60.4 per cent of the total capital, pay out 61.8 per cent of the total for services, and receive 59.9 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 60.2 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

More than one-half of the laundry business of Georgia is in the city of Atlanta, whose 13 establishments have 48.4 per cent of the total capital, pay out 56.1 per cent of the total for services, and receive 55.9 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 51.6 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

The greater part of the laundry business in Illinois is in the city of Chicago, whose 219 establishments have 63.8 per cent of the total capital, pay out 71.4 per cent of the total for services, and receive 69.2 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 66.6 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

The greater part of the laundry business in Maryland is in the city of Baltimore, whose 25 establishments have 71 per cent of the total capital, pay out 74.9 per cent of the total for services, and receive 73.2 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 74.4 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

Practically one-half of the laundry business in Michigan is in the city of Detroit, whose 46 establishments have 45.3 per cent of the total capital, pay out 55 per cent of the total for services, and receive 51.3 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 48 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

Almost one-half of the laundry business in Nebraska is in the city of Omaha, whose 19 establishments have 43.9 per cent of the total capital, pay out 51.9 per cent of the total for services, and receive 47.8 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 46.3 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

Considerably more than one-half of the laundry business in Oregon is in the city of Portland, whose 31 establishments have 69.1 per cent of the total capital, pay out 71.9 per cent of the total for services, and receive 69.4 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 67.9 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

The greater part of the laundry business in Rhode Island is in the city of Providence, whose 27 establishments have 73.5 per cent of the total capital, pay out 68.6 per cent of the total for services, and receive 67.9 per cent of the total amount received for work done, while employing 65 per cent of the total number of wage earners.

Figures from Delaware show that of the total of \$253,264 invested in steam laundries in that State, in 1914, the city of Wilmington was represented by \$230,664.

Increases or decreases in the number of steam laundries in various States during the five-year period, from 1909 to 1914, were: Alabama, 38 to 41; Arizona, 13 to 17; Arkansas, 45 to 53; Colorado, 99 to 95; Connecticut, 95 to 127; Delaware, 15 to 12; Florida, 28 to 45; Georgia, 42 to 43; Idaho, 24 to 36; Illinois, 448 to 458; Indiana, 163 to 174; Iowa, 181 to 176; Kansas, 138 to 150; Maryland, 41 to 54; Michigan, 219 to 234; Minnesota, 158 to 188; Mississippi, 30 to 27; Missouri, 171 to 177; Nebraska, 76 to 74; Nevada, 5 to 12; New Hampshire, 61 to 74; New Mexico, 8 to 15; North Carolina, 43 to 59; North Dakota, 34 to 30; Ohio, 253 to 296; Oregon, 58 to 78; Rhode Island, 53 to 66; South Carolina, 24 to 23.

TRADE OF PARAGUAY FOR SIX MONTHS.

[Consul Samuel H. Willey, Asuncion Oct. 31.]

Statistics just made available give the value of the imports into Paraguay for the first six months of 1915 as \$933,119, compared with \$3,261,158 for the same period in 1914. The value of the exports was \$2,299,457 against \$2,370,683 for the first half of 1914. The total value of the imports by countries of origin and the value of exports by countries of destination follow:

Imports from—	Value.	Exports to—	Value.
Argentina	\$289,163	Argentina	\$1,433,179
France	28,729	Denmark	45,723
Germany	115,554	Great Britain	56,639
Great Britain	264,936	Holland	176,047
Italy	72,009	Spain	41,788
Spain	45,125	United States	107,372
United States	79,003	Uruguay	335,926
All other countries	38,595	All other countries	82,783
Total	933,119	Total	2,299,457

Articles of Export.

The principal articles exported and the quantity were as follows:

Articles.	Quantity.	Articles.	Quantity.
Animal products:		Agricultural products—Continued.	
Live catilo.....head..	11,617	Oranges.....number..	64,418,500
Conserved beef.....pounds..	643,581	Bananas.....bunches..	40,569
Conserved tongues.....do..	27,730	Timber and forest products:	
Jerked beef.....do..	1,153,215	Extract of quebracho.....pounds..	14,301,520
Tallow.....do..	562,186	Oil of pelegra.....do..	33,265
Hides.....do..	5,250,270		
Agricultural products:			
Tobacco.....pounds..	5,355,690		
Yerba maté.....do..	4,633,764		

IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION IN SYDNEY.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia. See also COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 18, 1915.]

The leading exhibits at the "Ideal Home Exhibition" held at the Sydney town hall in October were bathtubs with automatic heating devices, electrical goods, gas cooking stoves, vacuum cleaners, oscillating beds, furniture, floor coverings, pianos, potted plants, exhibits of wall boards shown in various colors, glass lamps and shades demonstrating the semi-indirect system of lighting, clothes wringers, washing machines, churns, electric motors, lamps, toasters, irons, sewing machines, refrigerators, dish-washing machines, aluminum goods, patent roofing, etc.

The leading demonstrated American lines were various electrical exhibits, gas cooking stoves, oscillating wall boards, sanitary goods, vacuum cleaners, fireless cookers, and electric light demonstrating the semi-indirect system of lighting. It is doubted whether there has been a similar exhibition in Sydney where American products were so numerously displayed. If American manufacturers place their lines with live firms who can exhibit the goods and unostentatiously pass out descriptive reading matter, the American trade would undoubtedly increase.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**CANADA.**

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Calgary, Alberta, Nov. 11.]

Dam and Power Plant for Company to Serve Edmonton.

The Edmonton Power Co. (Ltd.) is planning to build a solid concrete dam, 1,500 feet long and 100 feet high, on the Saskatchewan River, above Rocky Rapids, making an artificial lake about 60 square miles in area. Electricity will then be generated in a power plant below the dam and brought to Edmonton on a steel-tower transmission line. At Edmonton this electricity will be "stepped down" in the company's substation and will be sold in bulk to the city to deliver to the various departments and consumers as at present. The company is to be granted no franchise within the city and will have nothing whatever to do with the civic departments or private consumers.

This development will cost approximately \$6,000,000, not including an electric railway, which, as a separate scheme, will be built from Edmonton to the proposed power site. The railway will develop and make tributary to Edmonton a rich mixed farming, timber, and pulp-wood district.

The building of the electric railway and complete power development will take at least four years, and, in order to enable the city to establish a rate schedule immediately, based on known power costs for 30 years, and thus secure customers now available in the city, as well as new industries, the company agrees to take over and operate the present city steam plant, selling the city power at rates considerably lower than the city has produced.

Practically all of the public utilities in Edmonton are owned and managed by the city, and this private undertaking is receiving the support of a number of citizens who believe that municipal ownership has not been profitably demonstrated in Edmonton.

[Articles on municipal ownership in both Edmonton and Calgary have been published recently in *COMMERCE REPORTS*. Developments since the incorporation of the city of Edmonton in 1901 were shown in electric light and power systems, waterworks, power plant, street railway, and telephone systems in the issue of October 9, 1915. The article on Calgary was published November 16, 1915, and gave the results for several years past in the management of the waterworks, electric light and power plant, and street railway.]

CUBA.

[Consul P. Merrill Griffith, Santiago de Cuba, Nov. 15.]

Cuban Railroad to Have New Equipment and be Extended.

It has been reported that the Cuban Railroad Co. has just purchased the Camaguey and Nuevitas Railway. The road which connects the two cities is 73 kilometers (45.36 miles) long, and traverses one of the richest sections of the island. Its equipment is said to be antiquated and is to be changed to the most modern type and the road extended to Santa Cruz immediately. This will make an additional line crossing Cuba from north to south.

The sugar and cattle industries along the entire route are very important, and the improvement and extension of the railway will greatly augment the importance of both Camaguey, as an inland trade center, and Nuevitas, a port through which practically all of the products intended for foreign export will have to pass.

NORWAY.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Nov. 12.]

New Dry Docks and Shipyards.

Larger accommodations for building and repairing vessels are under process of construction at Stavanger, Norway, two new dry docks, each combined with a shipyard, being planned. Both should be in full running order within two years. Both are badly needed, as Norway has inadequate facilities of this kind and is compelled to have all its large-sized vessels built in England and repaired in British or other foreign docks.

One of the new dry docks will be the largest in Norway. It will be located, along with the new shipyard, on the island of Buoi, which lies in the harbor a short distance from the town of Stavanger. The new project will cover an area of over 80,000 square yards. The dry dock will be run through a rocky peninsula and will have outlet to a good harbor on both sides. The dock will be 530 feet long and 80 feet deep, with 22½ feet of water over the sill. A ship of 8,000 tons can be accommodated or the dock will be able to take two smaller ships at once, which will be separated by a movable pontoon. Eventually the dock will be enlarged to take vessels of 12,000 tons, in particular the *Stavangerfjord*. This boat, which will be Norway's largest ship, is being built in Scotland and should be ready for use by 1917.

The part of the peninsula beyond the dry dock will be made into two quays, 350 and 250 feet long, respectively, which will meet in a point. These will be used for fitting out newly built ships as soon as they can go in the water. An electric crane of 50-ton lifting power will run along these quays on rails lying 6 yards apart. The crane will also run along the dry dock and will have arms reaching across this dock to the other side. On this other side, on the main part of the island, will be located the shipbuilding yards, where there will be three (and eventually four) berths constructed, each suitable for building a ship up to 14,000 tons. There will also be two slips, accommodating up to 2,000 and 800 tons dead weight, respectively, where smaller vessels will be repaired, while the dry dock will be used more particularly for larger ones.

Beyond the berths will be a material quay 300 feet long. A network of rails will spread over the whole area to carry material to the shipbuilding sheds (which will cover an area of over 5,000 square yards), the slips, and the dry dock. Electric cranes will be used everywhere. It is calculated that 1,800 horsepower will be needed.

When docks and yards are in running order they should give employment to about 1,500 men. As there might be a lack of so much skilled labor, a school for 50 boys will be established near the workshop, where young men from the country can learn the trade. The company has increased its capital to over \$1,000,000, all of which is subscribed.

In connection with this project the municipality has purchased 175,000 square yards of property on the island of Buoi, which it proposes to improve. Streets are to be laid out and plats for homes sold at reasonable rates to the workmen. Water supply, gas, etc., have also been arranged for, and a small electric ferry will be maintained to carry workmen and material between the island and the mainland.

The concern that is interested in dry-dock construction has had two small dry docks—the only ones in Stavanger—but, with the company's capital increased to \$225,000, one of the old dry docks is being enlarged and one filled up. Work has also been started on a shipyard with three berths, each of which will be suited for the construction of a 10,000-ton ship. The dry dock, when enlarged, will be 350 feet long, 50 feet broad, and 14½ feet deep. It will accommodate a ship of 6,000 tons. New pump works are to be installed consisting of two electric pumps that together can draw out about 260 gallons of water per second. With a fair-sized ship lying inside the new dock can be pumped out in about 1½ hours' time.

The new quay will run around three sides of a small bay and will measure about 975 feet in length.

[The names of the two dry-dock concerns may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69661.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(e)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lou enco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2907 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

WOOL SALES IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 15.]

Record prices were reached at the first New Zealand wool sale for the season, which was held at Christchurch on November 11. There were 5,548 bales offered of the different classes and grades, with South-down ewe and half-bred wools at the head at 20 pence (40 cents) per pound in several cases, Corriedale hoggets at 19½ pence (38½ cents). Little wool brought less than 15 pence (30 cents). The advance over last year's prices ranged from 4 cents for the lower grades to 7 cents for some of the better classes.

Much of this wool was purchased by American firms. The next sale is to be held at Auckland on November 25, when it is expected a much larger quantity of wool will be offered and that American buyers will be active.

RATES ON COAL FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 15.]

The Revista de Economía y Hacienda, published in Madrid, quotes freight rates on coal from Great Britain to Spain and compares them with rates of 1914. The quotations are in British shillings and pence, equivalent, respectively, to 24.33 cents and 2 cents each. The rates from the various British ports to Spanish destinations are:

	1914	1915		1914	1915
From Cardiff to—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	From Swansea to—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Huelva.....	6 6	26 0	Alicante.....	13 0	32 0
Cádiz.....	6 9	28 0	Huelva.....	8 0	26 0
Valencia.....	10 0	32 3	Valencia.....	8 6	32 0
Taragona.....	10 0	31 0	Ba celona.....	10 6	32 0
Ba celona.....	9 3	37 6	From Tyne to—		
Las Palmas.....	7 0	25 0	Ba celona.....	17 6	38 6
Sevilla.....	10 6	27 0	Malaga.....	9 0	35 0
From Newport to—			Las Palmas.....	9 4	27 6
Bilbao.....	6 6	19 0	Cádiz.....	13 6	30 0
Sevilla.....	13 6	21 0			

FEWER VESSELS IN NEWFOUNDLAND SEALING FLEET.

[Consul James S. Benedict, St. John's, Dec. 6.]

At present there seems to be only eight available steamers to prosecute the Newfoundland seal fishery the coming spring. Five have recently been sold to the Russian Government, and their loss to the sealing fleet will be severely felt. It is reported that the *Stephano* and the *Florizel*, of the Red Cross Line, will not, as heretofore, be employed in the seal fishery on account of the large amount of freight offering. Inquiries have been made from abroad about the *Erik* and the *Diana*, with a view to purchasing, and it is said that if the owners can obtain the price asked the vessels will be sold. It now looks as though there would not be a single steel ship engaged in this industry.

TRAFFIC ON AMUR RAILROAD.

[Consul John K. Caldwell, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, Nov. 17.]

The management of the temporary exploitation of the Western Amur Railroad has informed the Habarofsk Chamber of Commerce that, beginning November 14, two freight-passenger trains will run between the stations Bochkarevo and Burea pristan, and between Burea (left shore) and Vladimirovka pristan, with interruptions at the Burea and Amur Rivers. During the winter, when the rivers are frozen, uninterrupted communication will be established, as the cars will cross over the ice. Through traffic is expected to open over the Burea River bridge in April, 1916, and over the Amur River bridge in October, 1916. Vladimirovka station is situated on the Amur River opposite Kabarofsk.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 403 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

ARGENTINE MARKET FOR SUGAR MACHINERY.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario.]

The production of raw sugar in Argentina varied during the 5-year period 1908-1912 from 127,322 to 180,092 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds). The Province of Tucuman produces from 80 to 85 per cent of the total output, the remainder coming chiefly from Jujuy. In 1913, owing to favorable weather conditions, the Province of Tucuman alone produced 221,000 metric tons of raw sugar from 2,606,567 tons of cane. [An exhaustive review of the Tucuman sugar industry appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Sept. 21, 1914.]

According to the last industrial census (1910), Argentina had 37 raw-sugar factories ("ingenios"), with a total capital of \$31,597,430. These factories employed 38,591 persons (8,335 in factories and 30,256 in the fields), and required 34,650 horsepower (all steam) to operate their machinery. These figures are old and undoubtedly fall far short of representing the present condition of the industry.

The Province of Tucuman has at the present time 30 "ingenios," 26 to 28 of which are usually in operation during the sugar season. The total capital invested in the 30 "ingenios" of the Province of Tucuman is estimated variously at 100,000,000 to 250,000,000 paper pesos (\$42,460,000 to \$106,150,000). A conservative estimate would appear to be about \$60,000,000. This includes factories, machinery, implements, live stock, and plantations owned by "ingenios" but not those of independent planters. The largest Tucuman "ingenio" has a crushing capacity of about 2,500 tons of cane per day, and a number of factories have a daily (24-hour) capacity of 1,500 tons of cane.

It is obvious that an industry of this magnitude concentrated in a small district (the Province of Tucuman has an area of 10,422 square miles) must present an active and important market for materials and supplies of all kinds used in cultivating cane and extracting sugar. For the purposes of this report three large "ingenios" located to the north of Tucuman, in the Provinces of Salta and Jujuy, may be considered as belonging to the Tucuman sugar district, since these factories purchase their machinery and supplies through Tucuman.

The total market represented by the Tucuman sugar industry, including machinery of all kinds, supplies, and agricultural implements, is estimated by a representative of a combine operating a number of large "ingenios" at 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 paper pesos annually (approximately \$3,000,000 to \$3,400,000). This includes freight to Tucuman and cost of installation in case of machinery. On the other hand a machinery expert considers these figures too high and states that average annual purchases of sugar machinery alone do not exceed 2,000,000 paper pesos (\$850,000) f. o. b. port of shipment. It is estimated, however, that the cost of machinery completely installed is about double the export price, so that when all other supplies as well as agricultural implements are taken into consideration the first figures do not appear greatly excessive.

Machinery at Present in Use.

Up to a comparatively recent date French and English sugar machinery had the best sale in Tucuman. The French influence has always been strong in the Province and Frenchmen have played an

important part in the development of the sugar industry. English capital has also been well represented. Technical and other managing employees, particularly of the important factories, are largely French, German, Swiss, and English. The machines most commonly found at present in factories are those of Cail and Fives-Lille (French); Fawcett, Preston & Co., Mirrlees Watson Co., John McNeil & Co., Watson, Laidlaw & Co. (British); and Breitfeld, Danek Engineering Co. (Austrian). Krupp (Germany) has also sold some machinery, as have other German factories. Some American equipment has been purchased. None of the numerous factory managers and specialists interviewed knew of any instance in which Dutch or Belgian sugar machinery, strictly speaking, has been introduced at Tucuman.

Of the four large factories visited, varying in capacity from 1,200 to 2,500 tons of cane a day, all had either Fawcett-Preston or Fives-Lille mills. The Krajewsky crusher is used almost universally. It appears that while Fawcett, Preston & Co. have in the past done a big business, new orders are being placed chiefly with French and Austrian factories. Defecation tanks are, as a rule, furnished by sugar-mill manufacturers, but are also made in Argentina. Triple and quadruple effect vacuum pans are used. Here again French and Austrian establishments receive the preference at present, although English manufacturers are also doing a good business. The same is true of crystallizers. Watson-Laidlaw centrifugals are used almost exclusively. Kestner evaporators are being introduced. In the vast majority of instances a great variety of machinery of all makes and ages will be found assembled in the same factory. Only one instance was cited of an entire plant which was installed at one time, and in this case machinery was purchased from different concerns.

In general it may be said that French and Austrian machinery is now finding the best market, while English (including Scotch) equipment, of which there is still a great deal in use, has lost ground. This applies to sugar machinery, strictly speaking. There is, of course, a great variety of general machinery, such as cranes, pumps, and engines in all factories. Practically all producing countries are represented. Some of the machines which find most general acceptance are Sulzer (Swiss) engines, American cranes, and Babcock boilers.

Sales Methods and Terms.

One of the leading, if not the prime, factor in marketing sugar machinery in Argentina is the local agent. In one or two instances European manufacturers have agents at Buenos Aires, with sub-agents at Tucuman. While general machinery (engines, boilers, cranes, agricultural implements, etc.) for which there is a market in other parts of the Republic can be sold advantageously on such a basis, it is generally conceded that sugar machinery should be handled by an expert located at Tucuman and that the intervention of a Buenos Aires house only tends to increase the cost of selling. There are a considerable number of mechanical engineers at Tucuman who represent European factories and incidentally act as consulting engineers for "ingenios."

The following example will best illustrate the part played by the local agent: Some four years ago a European firm which had up to that time sold little or no sugar machinery in Tucuman sent out an

engineer who is admittedly the best sugar-machinery expert in the Province. This agent furnishes any sort of information and advice desired to factories which purchase machinery from him, is exceedingly active, and is reported to have secured for his firm half the machinery orders placed in Tucuman last season. Factories have in many instances no very able technical men and are largely guided by the advice of experts who are at the same time agents for European machinery manufacturers. As already stated, highly paid employees and factory engineers are largely foreigners, and will naturally be more or less inclined to consider favorably machinery made in their native countries, with which they are probably most familiar.

Terms of sale represent another important factor. It should be remembered that even the largest "ingenios" have little ready capital. As a rule they have to carry cane planters from one crop to another, which further reduces supply of ready money. The question of terms is in most instances an important one. French and Austrian factories have the reputation of giving good terms. While there is no universal rule, terms of one-third with order, one-third against documents, and a note for the remainder due on July 31 of the "campaign" following erection of machinery are said to be acceptable to the factories. Some firms give up to 18 months' time for final payment of balance. In such cases the factory is likely to charge 6 per cent interest, which is more than the money would bring in Europe. English factories are less inclined than their competitors to give liberal terms.

Market for American Machinery.

American sugar machinery is little known in Tucuman. The writer was told by a gentleman representing European manufacturers that American machinery had been tried, but that, owing to inferior construction, it gave poor results, and is now completely discredited. This was corroborated to a certain extent by the manager of one of the large "ingenios," who had not, however, had any personal experience with American machinery. On the other hand, several equally well informed persons stated that so far as they knew practically no American sugar machinery had been used in Tucuman. At any rate, very little American equipment has been introduced in the Argentine sugar industry under its own name, and its reputation is—in certain quarters, at least—rather unfavorable. How far this may be due to a natural desire to keep out competition on the part of rival factories is hard to determine.

An American, exceptionally well placed to judge of the possibility of selling American sugar machinery in Tucuman, believes that it would find a market, provided it were properly introduced. Machinery can be sold in only one way. An expert, who speaks the language and who is given a good salary and an ample expense allowance, should be sent down to study the market thoroughly. He could probably secure employment in different mills for a short period, and thus familiarize himself with local requirements. With the necessary experience in the local field, coupled with a good knowledge of American machinery, an expert could undoubtedly suggest machines which could be used to advantage. Any factory or syndicate trying to work the Tucuman market would undoubtedly have to go to considerable initial expense—a representative should have at least 1,000 paper

pesos (\$425) a month—and might have to wait a year and perhaps longer for results. The American mentioned above believes that American machinery can be sold in this way, and, so far as a layman can judge, the writer is inclined to share this opinion after due study and wide discussion with persons familiar with conditions in Tucuman.

Possible Opening for American Capital—Light Equipment.

Another way in which American sugar machinery could be introduced into Tucuman might be found in the investment of American capital in the sugar industry. As already stated, few "ingenios" have a large supply of ready capital, and mills can always be found which are eager to secure the cooperation of foreign investors. Some of the large cane planters and landholders of the Province might also be induced to enter into an agreement with an American manufacturer by which the latter would erect the plant and the former furnish the land and cane. Such investments should, of course, be made only after due study and investigation of conditions in the Tucuman industry.

At the present time the independent planter depends on the "ingenio" for his market, and in abundant years he is apt to have more or less difficulty in selling his cane at a remunerative price. The opinion was heard in Tucuman that some of the independent planters might eventually install light equipment such as is understood to be in use on Cuban plantations, which would permit them to mill their cane themselves in case "ingenio" prices made it advisable. On the other hand, a leading authority on the Tucuman industry considers this impracticable on account of the high cost of production.

Miscellaneous Machinery, Cane Chains, and Belting.

While American sugar machinery is not sold in Tucuman at present, factories have more or less general equipment of American manufacture. One of the most popular American products is the gyratory crane for hoisting and lowering cane. Formerly cane was unloaded from carts and railway cars and placed on conductors by hand. Cranes, driven in case of main cranes of large factories by steam and in others by mules or oxen, are now universally used. Countless cranes are to be found scattered over the Province, at factories, railway stations, and sidings.

Cane chains with patent locks, of which every factory takes car-load lots, were before the expiration of the patent supplied exclusively by the United States. Germany is said to be getting the main trade at present. A Tucuman dealer states that American chains cost 5 gold pesos (\$4.83) c. i. f. Buenos Aires each, whereas German manufacturers deliver chains at Buenos Aires for 2.85 gold pesos (\$2.75) (including lock in both cases).

Belting used by "ingenios" is at present chiefly of English, German, and French make. The demand for belting is estimated at \$4,000 per year for each of the principal "ingenios." A local dealer recently took an agency for American belting, and believes that, provided good terms are offered, American belting can be sold. In his opinion the best opening would be either for a very superior or for a very cheap belting.

RULES GOVERN BANKERS' DOMESTIC ACCEPTANCES.

The Federal Reserve Board has decided that bankers' domestic acceptances, as defined and restricted by a new regulation, constitute a very useful class of paper, and has issued regulation, to cover the purchase, in the open market, of certain domestic acceptances authorized by certain State laws.

In Regulation R, series of 1915, relating to the discount of bankers' acceptances, the board provided for the purchase in the open market of bankers' acceptances based on the importation or exportation of goods. The board further states that it has not felt justified, when admitting State banks and trust companies into the Federal Reserve System, in stipulating that such domestic acceptances should not be continued under reasonable limitations as a part of their business.

Inasmuch as the making of these domestic acceptances has been recognized by the board as the exercise of a legitimate banking function when authorized by law, it is thought that they are of the character to make desirable investments for Federal reserve banks. The board has, therefore, issued the new regulation, not only embodying the authority given in Regulation R, series of 1915, to purchase bankers' acceptances based on the importation or exportation of goods, but also authorizing the purchase of bankers' domestic acceptances within the limits prescribed in the regulation, which provides:

The Federal Reserve Board has determined that, until further notice, to be eligible for purchase under section 14 at the rates to be established for the purchase of bankers' domestic and foreign acceptances:

(a) Acceptances must have been made by a bank or trust company, or by some firm, person, company, or corporation engaged in the business of accepting or discounting. Such acceptances will hereafter be referred to as "bankers' acceptances";

(b) A banker's acceptance must be drawn by a purchaser or seller or other person, firm, company, or corporation directly connected with the importation or exportation of the goods involved in the transaction in which the acceptance originated, or by a "banker." The bill must not be renewed after the goods have been surrendered to the purchaser or consignee, except for such reasonable period as may have been agreed upon at the time of the opening of the credit as a condition incidental to the importation or exportation involved, provided that the bill must not contain or be subject to any condition whereby the holder thereof is obligated to renew the same at maturity;

(c) A banker's foreign acceptance must bear on its face or be accompanied by evidence in form satisfactory to a Federal reserve bank that it originated in, or is based upon, a transaction or transactions involving the importation or exportation of goods. Such evidence may consist of a certificate on or accompanying the acceptance to the following effect: "This acceptance is based upon a transaction involving the importation or exportation of goods. Reference No. ——. Name of acceptor ——."

(d) A banker's domestic acceptance must be based on a transaction covering the shipment of goods, such transaction to be evidenced at the time of acceptance by accompanying shipping documents, or must be secured by a warehouse receipt covering readily marketable staples and issued by a warehouse independent of the borrower; or by the pledge of goods actually sold;

(e) A banker's domestic acceptance must bear on its face or be accompanied by evidence in form satisfactory to the Federal reserve bank that it is based on a transaction or is secured by a receipt or pledge of the character defined in (d) hereof. Such evidence may consist of a certificate in general form similar to that suggested in (c) hereof;

(f) Banker's acceptances, other than those of member banks, whether foreign or domestic, shall be eligible only after the acceptors shall have agreed in writing to furnish to the Federal reserve banks of their respective districts, upon request,

information concerning the nature of the transactions against which acceptances (certified or bearing evidence under (c) and (e) hereof) have been made;

(g) The aggregate of bills, domestic and foreign, of any one drawer, drawn on and accepted by any bank or trust company and purchased or discounted by a Federal reserve bank, shall at no time exceed 10 per cent of the unimpaired capital and surplus of such bank or trust company, but this restriction shall not apply to the purchase or discount of bills drawn in good faith against actually existing values; that is, bills the acceptor of which is secured by a lien on or by a transfer of title to the goods to be transported, or by other adequate security, such as a warehouse receipt, or the pledge of goods actually sold;

(h) The aggregate of bills, domestic and foreign, of any one drawer, drawn on and accepted by any firm, person, company, or corporation (other than a bank or trust company) engaged in the business of discounting or accepting, and purchased or discounted by a Federal reserve bank, shall at no time exceed a sum equal to a definite percentage of the paid-in capital of such Federal reserve bank, such percentage to be fixed from time to time by the Federal Reserve Board; but this restriction shall not apply to the purchase or discount of bills drawn in good faith against actually existing values; that is, bills the acceptor of which is secured by a lien on or by a transfer of title to the goods to be transported or by other adequate security, such as a warehouse receipt, or the pledge of goods actually sold.

(i) The aggregate of bankers' acceptances, domestic and foreign, made by any one firm, person, company, or corporation (other than a bank or trust company) engaged in the business of discounting or accepting, purchased or discounted by a Federal reserve bank, shall at no time exceed a sum equal to a definite percentage of the paid-in capital of such Federal reserve bank; such percentage to be fixed from time to time by the Federal Reserve Board.

No Federal reserve bank shall purchase a domestic or foreign acceptance of a "banker" other than a member bank which does not bear the indorsement of a member bank, unless there is furnished a satisfactory statement of the financial condition of the acceptor in form to be approved by the Federal Reserve Board.

Federal reserve banks should bear in mind that preference should be given wherever possible to acceptances indorsed by a member bank, discounted under section 13, not only because of the additional protection that such indorsement affords, but also because of the reason that acceptances discounted under section 13 may be used as collateral security for the issue of Federal reserve notes.

Action previously taken by the Federal Reserve Board in relation to domestic bills of exchange was the subject of an article published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 26, 1915.

CANADIAN NEWSPRINT AND PULP EXPORTS.

[Extract from Financial Times of Nov. 20, forwarded by Consul O. Gaylord Marsh, detailed as vice consul, Ottawa.]

The latest Government returns emphasize the growing trade Canada is doing in newsprint and pulp export. The new figures secured this week were for the month of August. With a total of \$1,564,510 for the month, the Dominion's newsprint exports have reached a new high mark for a single month's business.

The bigger business with the United States, which, of course, is Canada's best pulp and paper customer, reached the proportions of \$1,320,504 during August. For the five months of the Dominion's fiscal year newsprint exports to the United States alone aggregated \$5,909,618, compared with \$4,630,597 in the corresponding period of a year ago.

The export trade in newsprint for the five months reached a grand total of \$6,663,289, compared with \$5,321,419 a year ago. The amount of business contrasts with eight months' trade in 1913, totaling \$6,918,177, and eight months in 1912 amounting to \$3,110,458.

England is becoming a bigger buyer of our newsprint. A year ago England imported only \$7,646 worth of the Canadian product; this year \$28,582. The colonies are maintaining their previous business.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its branch offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the file number given.

Machines, baskets, etc., No. 19568.—An American consular officer reports that a company in Chile desires to secure a machine to be operated by electric power for sewing brooms. It also wishes to communicate with exporters of coconut fiber doormats, and all kinds of baskets, except grocers' baskets and those made of wire.

Metal buttons, No. 19569.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a firm in Peru desires quotations on single-piece metal pants buttons, with four holes and sharply depressed in the center; size to be from 14 to 18 millimeters, and in various colors. Values may be expressed in American currency but correspondence should be in Spanish.

Pharmaceutical products, manicuring articles, etc., No. 19570.—An American consular officer in China reports that a company in his district wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, manicuring articles, sponges, optical goods, photographic supplies, etc. Catalogues and samples are desired with prices and discounts f. o. b. Pacific ports. Payment will be made on sight or 30 days draft. References given.

Sewing machines, cooking stoves, etc., No. 19571.—A letter to the Bureau from a firm in India requests that it be placed in communication with manufacturers of sewing machines, cooking stoves, steel cash boxes with bottom lock attachment, childrens' tricycles, ice-cream freezers, etc.

Machinery, No. 19572.—A report from an American consular officer in Portugal states that a commission house desires quotations, by cable, on flour-mill machinery with a capacity of 400,000 pounds daily.

Portland cement, lumber, etc., No. 19573.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a firm in Peru wishes to be placed in communication with American exporters of Portland cement, building lumber, blasting powder, caustic soda, glass for windows and interior construction, etc. Correspondence may be in English or Spanish, although the latter is preferred.

Men's underwear, No. 19574.—A commercial agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reports that a firm in the Orient desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of men's bleached undershirts, with long or short sleeves, in gray or white, in prices ranging from \$2.25 to \$4.50 per dozen, sizes 28, 30, and 32, packed 30 dozen in a case. The firm is prepared to pay cash on day of shipment. Samples and prices (c. l. f. port of destination, if possible) should be forwarded with the first communication, and a code word given for each quality. Correspondence may be in English. A sample of the undershirt desired may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to File No. 798.)

Textiles and general merchandise, No. 19575.—An American consular officer in Paraguay reports that a company desires to communicate with manufacturers of textiles and general merchandise.

Paper bags, No. 19576.—A letter to the Bureau from a commercial organization states that a firm in Greece is desirous of communicating with manufacturers of paper bags, samples of which may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 81.)

Pharmaceutical products, No. 19577.—A report from an American consular officer in Italy states that a business man in his district wishes to be placed in communication with manufacturers of pharmaceutical products. Bank references are given. Correspondence should be in Italian, French, or Spanish.

Wheat, rice, etc., No. 19578.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a company in Greece desires to represent American firms exporting wheat, rice, kerosene, chemical products, and drugs. Lowest quotations should be submitted. Prices should be made c. l. f. destination, and terms of payment should be sent.

Hides and oil of petitgrain, No. 19579.—A report from an American consular officer in Paraguay states that a general exporting company wishes to be placed in communication with American importers of hides and oil of petitgrain. It is stated, however, that only firms already familiar with articles from Paraguay need answer.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 296 Washington, D. C., Saturday, December 18 1915

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PURCHASE OF CEREALS IN PORTUGAL.

[Vice Consul in Charge Ramon J. Janer, Lisbon, Nov. 24.]

The Portuguese Government has set aside in the Ministry of Fomento the sum of 1,000,000 escudos (about \$670,000) for the purchase of cereals authorized by decree of September 14, 1915.

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF ABACA HEMP.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, is in receipt of the following cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands in response to the bureau's cable inquiry as to the estimated production of abaca (coarse and coarse brown) for the first quarter of 1916:

Fiber Division estimates production abaca January-March about 265,000 bales, of which 65,000 will be coarse and coarse brown; these estimates are subject to modification, as on December 6 another typhoon struck Sorsogon, Albay, and Camarines, damaging crops including abaca; details of such damage not now available.

CONSIDER STANDARDS FOR BAKING POWDER.

A hearing on baking powder and its ingredients will be held by the joint committee on definitions and standards at the Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, D. C., at 10 a. m., on January 14, 1916. At this hearing the trade and all interested parties will be given an opportunity to present to the committee their views as to what should constitute a proper definition or standard for baking powder.

The joint committee on definitions and standards is composed of representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Association of American Dairy, Food, and Drug Officials, and the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. This committee recommends standards and definitions for food and drug products for the guidance of Federal and State officials in the enforcement of food and drug laws.

EXPORT DECLARATION PROCEDURE AMENDED.

A revised draft of the regulations entitled "Shippers' Export Declarations and Export Procedure" (Treasury Decision 35708 of Sept. 15, 1915), was approved jointly by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce on December 14, 1915, and issued as Treasury Decision 35969.

The new order makes clear certain doubtful points in the first order and meets some well-founded objections against specific provisions. The principal modifications are as follows:

Instead of January 1, 1916, the new regulations are made effective on February 1, 1916.

No oath is required on declarations for export by vessel if total value of shipment does not exceed \$100.

It is specifically provided that the declarations may be executed by an authorized agent of the shipper.

In case of shipment from an interior point for export on a through bill of lading, if it is not practicable to prepare the declaration in time to accompany the goods, it may be transmitted to the seaboard with the shipping papers.

The car manifest required for exportations by railway may be a copy of the waybill, bill of lading, or other shipping paper, or of the manifest prepared for the foreign customs.

No declaration will be required for goods shipped under any form of customs bond for exportation from or in transit through the United States, the statistics in such cases being obtained from the customs papers covering the shipment.

When the goods are sold, the selling price should be stated as the value, otherwise the market value at the time of exportation in the port of the United States from which shipped.

On application the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce will supply up to 10 copies for distribution to shippers. Additional copies, if desired, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at the rate of 5 cents a copy.

NEW PASSPORT REGULATIONS.

The following executive order has been issued by President Wilson:

All persons leaving the United States for foreign countries should be provided with passports of the Governments of which they are citizens. These documents are rendered necessary because the regulations of all European countries and of several other foreign countries require passports or other documents of identification of all persons who enter their boundaries. The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Treasury, will make arrangements for the inspection of passports of all persons, American or foreign, leaving this country, and the fact that these passports have been seen will be stamped thereon.

All applications to the Secretary of State for passports from American citizens must be made in duplicate, and must be accompanied with three copies of the photograph of the applicant. Each applicant for a passport must inform the Department of State at what point he intends to depart, on what date, and by what ship if he sails from an American port.

Applications shall be made in the manner heretofore prescribed by the rules governing the granting and issuing of passports, but the Secretary of State may designate an agent or agents to take applications, and wherever his agent is stationed applications shall be made only before him.

This order will become effective as soon as the Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury have made the arrangements necessary for that purpose.

WOODROW WILSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 15, 1915.

COTTON SEED CRUSHED AND LINTERS OBTAINED.

The following preliminary table, prepared by the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, gives the quantity of cotton seed crushed and linters obtained to December 1 from the crops of 1914 and 1915, together with the total quantities from the crops of 1913 and 1914:

State.	To Dec. 1.				Total for crop.			
	Cotton seed crushed, crop of—		Linters obtained, crop of—		Cotton seed crushed, crop of—		Linters obtained, crop of—	
	1915	1914	1915	1914	1914	1913	1914	1913
United States.	Tons. 1,981,140	Tons. 2,473,931	Bales. 331,927	Bales. 341,142	Tons. 5,779,665	Tons. 4,767,802	Bales. 832,401	Bales. 631,153
Alabama.....	154,760	211,935	30,617	28,095	502,374	428,447	69,924	53,860
Arkansas.....	110,037	132,847	20,080	18,121	314,308	305,042	46,242	40,671
Florida.....	13,037	19,177	1,834	1,693	33,150	23,650	3,030	2,621
Georgia.....	361,000	433,046	71,979	56,293	1,053,927	861,177	141,478	110,629
Louisiana.....	70,003	90,932	14,130	11,948	175,924	153,523	24,689	21,823
Mississippi.....	178,770	228,796	35,512	31,614	527,905	502,326	78,781	60,766
Missouri.....	9,429	13,947	2,002	1,800	32,226	27,994	4,052	3,399
North Carolina.....	118,695	126,458	19,876	14,409	387,755	317,955	45,497	34,998
Oklahoma.....	81,179	164,675	15,914	26,213	410,733	249,721	68,929	38,533
South Carolina.....	160,179	190,315	26,749	21,799	460,757	411,292	58,416	46,580
Tennessee.....	90,858	111,358	19,213	15,032	277,930	259,556	41,601	34,671
Texas.....	612,191	724,870	119,524	111,027	1,514,505	1,166,339	238,395	176,202
All other States.....	21,002	25,575	4,497	3,111	88,161	60,747	11,327	6,397

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do. do.	Do.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

Consul General Frederic W. Goding, of Guayaquil, reports that a postal money-order convention has been signed between Ecuador and Germany.

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF UNITED STATES FOR OCTOBER.

The usual monthly statement of the foreign trade of the United States, compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, is given below. The table gives the imports and exports by great groups during October, 1915, and the 10 months ended October, 1915:

Groups.	Month of October—		10 months ended October—	
	1915	1914	1915	1914
IMPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$60,859,195	\$43,956,244	\$555,499,965	\$525,599,593
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	28,189,543	21,426,035	197,419,871	196,902,004
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	14,248,574	18,274,948	238,381,729	226,638,940
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	20,705,956	20,949,585	211,183,593	238,414,192
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	23,950,275	32,254,282	238,128,822	346,766,330
Miscellaneous.....	1,219,180	1,219,416	10,703,835	13,830,726
Total imports.....	149,172,729	138,080,520	1,451,267,515	1,548,152,394
EXPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	56,441,543	32,289,050	475,205,079	391,039,308
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	30,441,246	36,224,327	352,192,487	186,765,198
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	53,682,011	37,411,532	508,334,777	224,987,812
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	41,505,708	28,571,130	369,418,198	200,469,639
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	128,700,344	53,589,172	1,004,418,317	819,544,574
Miscellaneous.....	11,063,189	2,244,165	107,324,352	7,697,770
Total domestic exports.....	321,814,041	190,329,876	2,812,088,305	1,630,495,316
Foreign merchandise exported.....	6,216,240	4,381,794	48,427,243	31,707,844
Total exports.....	328,030,281	194,711,670	2,860,515,448	1,662,113,159

The increase in the exports for October, 1915, in the item "Miscellaneous," to a total of \$11,063,189 arises from the exportation of horses in that month to the value of \$8,845,952; of mules to the value of \$1,824,237; and of seeds valued at \$374,174.

TOURIST CHANGES AFFECT BERMUDA'S DAIRY INDUSTRY.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec. 1.]

Bermuda, with a population of 20,000, two-thirds of which is colored, and a tourist population in the winter months of perhaps 3,000 to 4,000, supports three small dairies. Each of these dairies owns from 30 to 40 cows and operates a cream separator of about 12 quarts milk capacity. Neither cheese nor butter is produced for the market by these dairies. The separators are of American manufacture. Bottled cream sells at retail for \$1 per quart and milk at 14 cents per quart.

One serious difficulty faced by the dairies is the matter of disposing of milk and cream during the summer months, when the large hotels are closed, owing to the absence of tourists. Several small separators, not more than a dozen perhaps, are used in private homes throughout the colony.

The American commercial attaché at The Hague, Erwin W. Thompson, states that it is reported that an import trust has been organized in Goteborg, Sweden, for the special purpose of importing cotton for domestic consumption.

IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE OF SWANSEA.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, detailed as vice-consul at Swansea, Wales.]

The total export trade of Swansea, as given by the statistics furnished by the Swansea Harbor Trust, amounted to 4,300,759 long tons (of 2,240 pounds each) for the first 10 months of 1915, as compared with 4,314,015 and 5,166,706 tons for the corresponding periods in 1914 and 1913, respectively. The decrease in the exports for the 1915 period from that of 1914 is due principally to the falling off in the shipments of tin, terne, and black plates, the decrease in this one class alone being 32,167 tons. Galvanized sheets showed a decrease of 22,709 tons from the 1914 period and 34,403 tons from the 1913 period. Shipments of patent fuel amounted to 636,051 tons, as against 666,750 and 802,127 tons in 1914 and 1913, respectively. The only items of importance showing an increase over the previous periods are coal and coke, and alkali, superphosphate, and arsenic. The figures for coal and coke are 3,211,575 tons, which is an increase of 66,094 tons over 1914, but a decrease of 590,852 tons from 1913. Shipments of alkali, superphosphate, etc., were 24,882 tons in the 1915 period, an increase of 6,978 tons over 1914 and 4,755 tons over the 1913 period.

The total imports into Swansea for the first 10 months of 1915 were 711,544 tons, as against 877,073 and 916,885 tons in 1914 and 1913, respectively. Imports of iron, steel, pig iron, and castings fell from 108,762 tons in 1913 and 100,802 tons in 1914 to 67,680 tons in 1915; steel bars and billets from 38,321 and 21,202 tons to 3,965 tons; deals, battens, and boards from 54,823 and 41,784 tons to 23,335 tons; tar and pitch from 55,053 and 49,403 tons to 28,551 tons; copper, silver, lead, and tin, with their ores and alloys, from 52,115 and 44,589 tons to 34,586 tons; bricks, slates, cement, etc., from 30,214 and 37,470 tons to 23,125 tons. The imports of pitwood amounted to 85,153 tons, an increase of 866 tons over 1914, but a decrease of 35,919 tons from 1913. Imports of iron ore for 1915 showed an increase over both 1914 and 1913, the respective figures being 77,825, 75,248, and 59,895 tons. Grain also showed similar advances, the amounts being 78,641, 75,386, and 74,051 tons for the 1915, 1914, and 1913 periods, respectively. There were 57,095 tons of sulphur ore, pyrites, salt, and chemicals imported during the first 10 months of 1915, as against 55,583 tons in 1914 and 52,644 tons in 1913.

PORT LIMON TO DEVELOP BALSA-WOOD EXPORTATION.

[Consul Chester Donaldson, Port Limon, Costa Rica, Nov. 27.]

The exportation of balsa wood from the Port Limon district is still barely in its infancy, but it has now passed the experimental stage and is considered one of the coming industries of this coast. The forests abounding throughout the district are well supplied with this timber, which up to the present time has never been disturbed, except for the few small shipments recently made by two firms of this city. Balsa wood is valued at about \$35 per 1,000 feet, ready for shipment, at Port Limon.

[The names of exporters of balsa wood from Port Limon may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 70006.]

AMERICAN CROP ESTIMATES.

The December estimates of the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the acreage, production, and value (based on prices paid to farmers on December 1) of important farm crops of the United States in 1915 and 1914, with the average for the five years 1909-1913, based on the reports of the correspondents and agents of the Bureau, are as follows:

Crop.	Acreage.	Production. ^a		Farm value Dec. 1.	
		Per acre.	Total.	Per bushel.	Total.
Corn:	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>		
1915.....	108,321,000	28.2	3,054,535,000	\$0.575	\$1,755,989,000
1914.....	103,435,000	25.8	2,672,804,000	.644	1,722,670,000
Average 1909-1913.....	104,229,000	26.0	2,708,334,000	.564	1,527,989,000
Winter wheat:					
1915.....	40,453,000	16.2	655,045,000	.95	622,612,000
1914.....	36,008,000	19.0	684,960,000	.966	675,633,000
Average 1909-1913.....	38,356,000	15.6	441,212,000	.852	399,362,000
Spring wheat:					
1915.....	19,445,000	18.3	356,480,000	.896	308,399,000
1914.....	17,533,000	11.8	206,027,000	.966	203,657,000
Average 1909-1913.....	18,741,000	13.1	245,479,000	.812	199,353,000
All wheat:					
1915.....	59,898,000	16.9	1,011,505,000	.92	930,302,000
1914.....	53,541,000	16.6	891,017,000	.966	878,699,000
Average 1909-1913.....	47,097,000	14.6	686,691,000	.867	568,635,000
Oats:					
1915.....	40,780,000	37.8	1,540,362,000	.361	555,569,000
1914.....	38,442,000	29.7	1,141,080,000	.438	499,431,000
Average 1909-1913.....	37,357,000	30.3	1,131,176,000	.375	424,047,000
Barley:					
1915.....	7,385,000	32.0	237,009,000	.517	122,499,000
1914.....	7,565,000	25.8	194,953,000	.543	106,903,000
Average 1909-1913.....	7,619,000	23.9	181,873,000	.506	108,364,000
Rye:					
1915.....	2,856,000	17.2	49,190,000	.830	41,285,000
1914.....	2,541,000	16.8	42,779,000	.866	37,018,000
Average 1909-1913.....	2,236,000	15.6	34,911,000	.708	24,795,000
Buckwheat:					
1915.....	806,000	19.6	15,789,000	.787	12,493,000
1914.....	792,000	21.3	16,881,000	.784	12,992,000
Average 1909-1913.....	843,000	19.7	16,597,000	.697	11,576,000
Flaxseed:					
1915.....	1,367,000	10.1	13,845,000	1.74	24,090,000
1914.....	1,645,000	8.4	13,749,000	1.26	17,318,000
Average 1909-1913.....	2,490,000	7.8	19,501,000	1.52	20,638,000
Rice:					
1915.....	803,000	36.1	28,947,000	.906	26,212,000
1914.....	694,000	34.1	23,649,000	.924	21,848,000
Average 1909-1913.....	716,000	33.5	24,016,000	.814	19,559,000
Potatoes:					
1915.....	3,761,000	95.5	359,163,000	.616	221,104,000
1914.....	3,711,000	110.5	409,921,000	.487	199,400,000
Average 1909-1913.....	3,677,000	97.0	356,627,000	.605	215,693,000
Sweet potatoes:					
1915.....	719,000	103.3	74,285,000	.62	45,061,000
1914.....	603,000	93.8	56,574,000	.73	41,294,000
Average 1909-1913.....	619,000	98.1	57,628,000	.714	41,134,000
Hay:					
1915.....	59,872,000	1.66	85,235,000	¢10.70	\$12,330,000
1914.....	49,145,000	1.43	70,071,000	¢11.12	779,088,000
Average 1909-1913.....	49,756,000	1.33	65,967,000	¢12.13	600,670,000
Tobacco:					
1915.....	1,368,000	¢775.1	\$1,090,587,000	¢.091	\$6,041,000
1914.....	1,224,000	¢845.7	\$1,034,679,000	¢.098	\$91,411,000
Average 1909-1913.....	1,223,000	¢814.5	¢996,067,000	¢.105	104,099,000
Cotton:					
1915.....	30,957,000	¢172.5	\$11,161,000	¢.112	\$62,363,000
1914.....	36,832,000	¢209.2	\$16,135,000	¢.068	\$25,374,000
Average 1909-1913.....	34,152,000	¢182.5	\$13,033,000	¢.119	\$43,626,000
Sugar beets:					
1915 preliminary.....	624,000	10.4	\$6,462,000	¢5.24	\$5,800,000
1914.....	483,400	11.6	\$5,585,000	¢5.45	\$5,428,000
Average 1910-1913.....	501,800	10.6	\$5,342,000		

^a Bushels of weight.
^b Tons (2,000 pounds).
^c Per ton.

^d Pounds.
^e Per pound.
^f Bales of 500 pounds, gross weight, excluding lint.

Crop.	Acreage.	Production.		Farm value Dec. 1.	
		Per acre.	Total.	Per bushel.	Total.
Cranberries:	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>		
1915.....	17,700	^a 25.8	^a 457,000	\$6.23	\$2,845,000
1914.....	17,400	^a 37.0	^a 644,000	3.93	2,530,000
Apples:					
1915.....			^a 76,670,000	^b 2.04	156,407,000
1914.....			^a 84,400,000	^b 1.85	156,140,000
Beans (3 States):					
1915.....	861,000	10.8	9,325,000	2.96	27,558,000
1914.....	823,000	13.4	11,013,000	2.27	24,998,000

^a Barrels.^b Per barrel, Nov. 15.

Details by States will appear in the December Monthly Crop Report.

AUSTRIAN STEAMSHIP REGULATIONS DRAFTED.

[Consul General Albert Halstead, Vienna, Oct. 14.]

New rules and regulations for Austria affecting steamship lines, steamship construction, and crews were being drafted, and the draft was practically completed when the present war began. The purpose was to make the regulations conform to the provisions of the London, 1913, maritime convention which were to become operative in the present calendar year.

The Austrian steamships in process of construction were planned to conform to the provisions for boilers and their survey lifeboats and other life-saving appliances, wireless telegraphy, fire appliances, accommodations for steerage passengers, etc., while as rapidly as possible vessels already built were being altered to meet the requirements of that convention. It is expected that as soon as the war is ended the provisions for safety at sea adopted at London will be made operative after such preliminaries as are necessary.

There is no examination, nor are there any qualifications as to efficiency for seamen. This is provided for in the London convention, and will go into effect after the war. There are no Austrian Government regulations as to the hours of labor on steamships. An understanding among the steamship companies provides that in port deck hands shall work from 6 to 6, while engine-room hands, which include firemen, coal trimmers, and greasers, shall work from 7 to 5. The hours of engineers who rank as officers depend upon the regulations of the company that employs them. At sea the hours for able seamen or deck hands are four on and four off, while engine hands, including firemen, coal trimmers, and greasers, have four hours on and eight off. Engineers work during the usual hours of officers. In the coasting trade and generally on the Mediterranean, on Austrian vessels, the hours for engine hands are four on and four off. Wages are paid semimonthly.

[A copy, in the German language, of the Austrian ordinance mentioned and a copy of the instructions for carrying it into effect, also in German, have been received and may be inspected by interested persons on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69598.]

SCOTCH DEMAND FOR MOTOR-TILLAGE IMPLEMENTS.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Nov. 23.]

The interest felt by farmers in the development of motor tillage and the use of motor tractors for reaping, thrashing, and road hauling was shown by the large attendance of leading landowners and tenants from many parts of Scotland at the exhibition tests of machines near Stirling, on October 5 and 6, under the auspices of the Highland and Agricultural Society, and later in the same month at Inverness.

Railway delays and other unfortunate circumstances prevented the trials being carried through under ideal conditions, but the farmers were very favorably impressed, especially with the work done on a farm near Inverness, by machines plowing two furrows, three furrows, and four furrows, and adapted to all-round service as tractors. The Inverness trial was merely a demonstration, not an official test. Therefore no report was made on it.

The American machines seemed to be preferred for general purposes, and sales have been made of tractors ranging in value from \$1,125 to \$2,808, with the prospect of a steadily increasing trade. Several American motor plows and tractors have now come into this market. It is advisable that manufacturers should carefully consider local conditions and requirements. It is probable that the introduction of these motor machines will be gradual and attended with some difficulties.

Facts to be Considered by American Manufacturers.

There are two facts bearing on the use of motor tillage implements which our manufacturers who are looking toward this market should keep in view:

1. Owing to the wet climate, much of the land is tile drained, and this tiling, while generally from 2 to 3 feet underground, may be interfered with in not a few places by the very heavy type of motor plow or tractor.

2. The Scotch farmer uses only the type of plow that throws the furrow on edge or slightly more than half over. He will not have the design of plow that turns the ground completely over; and, in order to be salable here, a motor plow must be adapted by American makers to the Scottish method of tillage.

The use of motor implements has been rendered necessary in some sections of the country by the scarcity of men and horses. As an indication of the demand on the part of small farmers for such implements, it is noteworthy that in several counties committees of farmers have passed resolutions urging the Board of Agriculture for Scotland to endeavor to obtain for them the use of motor plows and other mechanical implements on cooperative lines.

It is thought that when motor implements shall have been adopted by the more progressive farmers the trade will expand indefinitely and the agricultural community will never go back to the old conditions. The farm tractor has so many labor-saving uses that it has become a necessity.

[Copies of the publication of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland relating to the exhibition trial of motor tillage implements at King's Park farm, Stirling, in October, 1915, may be inspected on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Lists of Edinburgh dealers in motor machinery for farms may also be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices. Refer in either case to File No. 69545.]

AMERICAN TRADE METHODS IN NORWAY.

[Vice Consul Haakon E. Dahr, Jr., Christiania, Oct. 7.]

Importers and local agents complain that American firms often change their representatives in Norway. The result is that Norwegian import agents and importers do not know how long they will be in possession of agencies or in connection with their respective American exporters. Importers and agents state that such treatment would never happen from Germany or England, except for very good reason.

This consulate has repeatedly informed exporters and manufacturers in the United States, in replying to their inquiries, that only one agent or one dealer should be addressed at a time. The city of Christiania—the population of which is 251,000—is a comparatively small city, where all these dealers and agents have some knowledge of one another. They inform one another that they have been addressed by such and such a firm, and the result is that such goods will not be handled and the exporter, perhaps, not answered.

All the local agents belong to an organization, the object of which is to see that no one acts dishonestly or unfairly. The agent or dealer whose actions are unsatisfactory to the organization is expelled and practically put on the blacklist. All adhere to the rule that no two agents must represent the same American exporter at the same time.

A prominent business man, member of a well-known automobile firm in this city which represents a certain American motor car, stated that a man of this city left for the United States a month ago to secure the sole agency of said car in Norway, after the firm in question had had the trouble of introducing the car for three or four years, and he further stated that his firm gradually had worked this special motor car successfully on the Norwegian market. Said firm is of good financial standing and of excellent repute.

If American exporters thus change their representative without any reason, importers in this country do not know when they will be ruined, as their whole business sometimes depends on one American agency.

Nearly all goods for Norway are now supplied from the United States; they were previously bought in England, Germany, France, and Italy. After the war has ended purchases will continue to be made from the United States, provided American exporters and manufacturers handle their goods and their representatives in Norway in the right way.

CANADIAN RESTRICTION ON SHAPE OF TRUNKS.

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Nov. 20.]

Considerable evidence on the subject of restricting the shape of baggage containers was submitted to the railway commission, which finally ruled that all trunks must be rectangular in shape, and that where the sides are too bulging trunks will not be accepted for transportation.

The limit of \$100 as liability for damage to baggage was upheld by the commission. This ruling applies also to the \$50 limit on children's baggage.

TRADE OF THE SUDAN.

[Indian Trade Journal, Oct. 22.]

The report of the director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Central Economic Board, Khartum, recently issued, shows that the value of the imports into the Sudan in 1914, inclusive of Government stores, amounted to \$9,349,507, as compared with \$10,428,623 in 1913. In the first quarter of the current year the value of the import trade was \$1,694,960, as compared with \$2,565,956 during January-March, 1914.

At the beginning of 1914 the price of durra (sorghum), the principal food grain of the country, is said to have reached unprecedented prices. In order to tide the people over to the next harvest the Government imported durra from India. The quantity imported was 11,000 tons, and another 16,000 tons were imported by merchants on their own account. "The importation of the durra," says the report, "not only eked out the diminishing food supply but the prices at which it was possible to sell it largely prevented the exploitation of helpless people by local speculators. Prices remained high, but they were kept within limits which were reasonable, considering the circumstances. Most of the Indian durra was issued by the Government on loan at cost price on easy terms of repayment."

Imports of Principal Articles.

The following table shows the values of the imports of some of the principal articles in the years 1913 and 1914 and in the first quarter of each of the years 1914 and 1915:

Articles.	1913	1914	Jan.-Mar.	
			1914	1915
Durra and corn.....	\$287,648	\$1,038,776	\$227,961	\$1,908
Rice.....	123,817	147,323	24,325	2,472
Wheat flour.....	425,928	505,928	139,345	61,066
Sugar.....	1,279,001	1,181,753	346,020	261,645
Coffee.....	333,875	283,328	36,109	29,732
Tea.....	193,341	180,429	33,543	22,204
Tobacco, tobaccos, cigars, and cigarettes.....	233,819	216,899	59,123	50,573
Coal.....	534,027	379,765	125,681	49,590
Soap.....	141,033	121,094	37,275	29,727
Cotton fabrics.....	2,489,374	1,696,546	545,811	471,715
Machinery (electrical, agricultural, etc.) and parts.....	160,776	233,927	106,019	13,899
Empty sacks.....	147,376	69,681	35,283	56,716

• Mixture of tobacco and other ingredients, which is smoked in water pipes.

Principal Exports—General Situation Promising.

The value of the exports during the year 1914 amounted to \$5,043,145, as against \$5,858,374 in 1913. In spite of the war, exports increased, every effort being made to get produce out of the country while opportunity offered.

Ivory was the principal export affected immediately by the war. Exports in 1914 amounted to 203,617 pounds, as compared with 276,645 pounds in 1913. During the first three months of this year exports amounted to 15,373 pounds, as compared with 60,975 pounds in the first quarter of 1914. The exports of senna leaves and pods from the Sudan in 1914 were 681,815 pounds, valued at \$29,371, as compared with 1,785,189 pounds, valued at \$47,685, in 1913.

The values of some of the principal articles exported in 1913 and 1914 and in the first quarter of each of the years 1914 and 1915 are shown in the following table:

Articles.	1913	1914	Jan.-Mar.—	
			1914	1915
Cattle.....	\$369,064	\$493,648	\$198,061	\$135,176
Sheep and goats.....	479,763	474,974	160,430	100,323
Hides, untanned.....	112,804	242,002	70,275	101,223
Skins, untanned.....	157,711	189,945	78,618	31,635
Ivory.....	559,726	418,203	116,497	30,147
Durra.....	107,342	21,893	13,351	218,940
Cotton seed.....	104,282	61,832	19,584	158
Sesame.....	518,713	261,480	171,715	119,927
Dates.....	157,443	145,186	40,172	20,138
Gum.....	1,787,033	1,556,645	419,354	196,850
Cotton, ginned.....	751,880	487,157	164,434	38,976
Gold.....	216,513	326,846	60,760	89,177

The report states that the country has emerged not unsuccessfully from a time of great economic strain, during which agriculture has been more or less at a standstill in some of the most productive districts of the Sudan and many of the people have been in great want. Trade, however, has maintained a fair level, and substantial progress has been made toward recovery, owing to the excellent harvest reaped in 1914.

SOUTH AFRICA SEEKS TRADE WITH UNITED STATES.

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, Oct. 18.]

The American consulate general at Cape Town has been informed by Mr. C. du P. Chiappini, Trades Commissioner of the Union Government at London, that, believing trade will be readjusted along new lines to a considerable extent after the restoration of peace, he thinks it probable that he will visit the United States in the near future. He also states that he believes the United States will in the future participate more extensively than heretofore in the trade of South Africa, both as a purchaser and as a seller.

Mr. Chiappini referred to the present lack of sufficient direct means of communication between the two countries, and said he was preparing a memorandum for submission to Parliament. He is anxious to increase the shipments of wool, mohair, and other South African products to the United States. In view of the fact that fruits ripen in the southern hemisphere during the fruitless months of northern latitudes, he believes a good trade can be built up for the exchange of oranges, apples, pears, plums, grapes, etc., if cold storage can be provided on fast vessels, with reasonable freight rates.

Would Preserve Trade Balance as Far as Possible.

Mr. Chiappini considers it good policy for any country to buy where it sells, thus providing cargoes in both directions and stimulating mutual good will, by preserving the trade balance as far as possible. The cargo products which South Africa has to offer the United States are comparatively few in number, consisting chiefly of wool, mohair, hides and skins, ostrich feathers, wattle bark, fresh fruit, and a few other articles.

It is suggested that, if Mr. Chiappini visits the United States, he should be given a sympathetic hearing and all possible assistance.

[Articles on American trade extension in South Africa were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 2 and Nov. 15, 1915.]

ELEVATOR IN VANCOUVER AND CANADA'S GRAIN CROPS.

[Consul General R. E. Mansfield, Vancouver, British Columbia, Nov. 26.]

The Dominion Government has in course of construction in Vancouver a grain elevator with a capacity of 1,250,000 bushels. The plant, which is one of a series of elevators erected by the Government for storing and handling the grain products of the Prairie Provinces, is nearing completion and will be ready in the early part of next year.

The elevator is divided into two sections, the main structure being 126 feet long, 62 feet wide, and 200 feet high; the second section adjoining the principal building consists of 52 circular bins of solid concrete construction, rising to a height of 100 feet, and covering a space of 332 by 100 feet; between these bins are an equal number of inter-spaces, which can also be used for storing grain. The sheds into which trains will be run for unloading the grain are 152 by 92 feet.

The elevator, which is being constructed at a cost of \$250,000, is not as large as some of the Government elevators in Canada, there being one at Fort William with a capacity of 11,000,000 bushels. The elevator at Vancouver is designated as a terminal elevator, to be used for the temporary storage and transfer of grain while in transit from the wheat-producing district to the export markets.

How the Grain is Handled.

The grain will be unloaded from the cars into great hoppers under the main building; from there it will be conveyed to the top of the main building, where it will be weighed, inspected, classified, and distributed to the various storage tanks. There are also cleaners for grain that requires such treatment. After being classified and stored according to grade it will be conveyed from the storage tanks to the bagging department or to the holds of ships, which will anchor at the Government dock adjoining the elevator.

The Vancouver plant is one of the most modern and complete of the Government elevators in Canada, but not as large as some of those installed in the wheat-producing Provinces adjacent to the Great Lakes. The total Government elevator capacity of the Dominion is 152,000,000 bushels, divided into districts as follows: Eastern Canada, 30,000,000 bushels; Fort William district, 42,000,000 bushels; west of the Great Lakes, 80,000,000 bushels.

The Government terminal elevator in Vancouver is established to provide facilities for storing and handling grain from the western Provinces to be carried by water from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast, to Europe by way of the Panama Canal, and to the Orient. Water transportation via the canal is cheaper than by rail across the continent, and it is estimated that a considerable percentage of the grain grown in the Dominion west of the Great Lakes will pass through Vancouver, greatly increasing the tonnage and the importance of the principal Pacific port of the Dominion.

Estimated Yield of Grain for 1915.

The estimated yield of Canada's wheat crop for 1915 is considerably over 300,000,000 bushels from 12,986,400 acres, representing an

average yield per acre of 23.1 bushels. The total oat crop of the Dominion for 1915 is estimated at 488,000,000 bushels from 11,365,000 acres, an average yield of 42.94 bushels. Barley is placed at 51,655,000 bushels from 1,509,350 acres, an average per acre of 34.22 bushels; rye, 2,385,700 bushels from 112,300 acres, or 21.24 bushels per acre; flaxseed 12,199,600 bushels from 1,009,600 acres, or 12.08 bushels to the acre.

Of the total grain production of the Dominion there are credited to British Columbia, which is not an agricultural but a mineral and timber-producing district, 494,600 bushels of wheat from 16,000 acres, an average yield per acre of 30.91 bushels. Of the total estimated wheat yield of the Dominion, amounting to 308,839,800 bushels, there is credited to the prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, 275,772,200 bushels. It is estimated that 175,000,000 bushels will be exported and a considerable percentage of the exports will pass through Vancouver and be transported on ships sailing from this port.

Wheat Shipments Via the Canal an Experiment.

If ships can be secured to carry the grain and other conditions are favorable, grain from the Prairie Provinces will pass through the new Dominion Government grain elevator at Vancouver some time in January.

It is announced by the Canadian Government authorities that much depends upon the first shipments through this port by way of the Panama Canal to prove whether grain can be successfully shipped from Vancouver in bulk. The moisture content of the best Canadian grain is 12.5 to 13 per cent, or about the same as that of Argentine grain which has crossed the equatorial zone in shipments without serious damage. Wheat from the United States has also crossed through the equator without spoiling, the moisture content being in some cases 11 per cent. These shipments, however, crossed the equator in sacks, and it remains to be seen whether wheat can be transported through the Panama Canal in bulk without being damaged.

Two factors will determine whether the Vancouver elevator will handle wheat next year for transport via Panama. These are whether there will be available tonnage and whether it can be carried by the Panama to Europe as economically as by the Atlantic route.

It is estimated that the railway transportation facilities are not sufficient to handle successfully and promptly the grain produced in the Prairie Provinces this year, and Vancouver is looked upon as the natural economic outlet for this important product of western Canada.

Report of South Australian Railways Commissioner.

American Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, of Melbourne, Australia, has transmitted to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a copy of the annual report of the South Australian Railways Commissioner for the year 1914-15. This may be examined at the Bureau or at one of its district offices.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Construction work, No. 2837.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 26, 1916, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at Shelby, N. C. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Shelby or at the Washington office.

Lock gates, No. 2838.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States engineer, Wheeling district, Wheeling, W. Va., until January 14, 1916, for furnishing and erecting steel lock gates for Dam No. 14, Ohio River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Lamp standards, No. 2839.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 5, 1916, for supplying bronze lamp standards for the United States customhouse at San Francisco, Cal., and the United States post office at Stamford, Conn., and for other buildings under the control of the Treasury Department, in accordance with specifications and drawings, copies of which may be had on application to the Washington office.

Lighthouse property, No. 2840.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the lighthouse inspector, San Francisco, Cal., until January 25, 1916, for purchase of condemned lighthouse property at Goat Island Lighthouse Depot, consisting of machinery, buoys, pipe fittings, old brass, rope, sacks, junk, etc. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Construction work, No. 2841.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 27, 1916, for the construction complete (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the United States post office at Ellensburg, Wash. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Ellensburg or at the Washington office.

Medical supplies, No. 2842.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until January 4, 1915, for furnishing and delivering 2,000 gross compressed gauze bandages, 30,000 packages of sterilized absorbent cotton, 50,000 first-aid packets; 5,000 rolls of sterilized absorbent gauze, 100,000 packages of sublimated gauze, and 10,000 spools of adhesive plaster.

Glass chimneys, etc., No. 2843.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., for the purchase of the following unserviceable public property: Glass chimneys, marine boilers, pumps, hoisting engines, and iron junk. Further information may be had on application to the above-mentioned office.

Turkeys, No. 2844.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the quartermaster, United States Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until December 20, 1915, for delivery, on or before December 23, 1915, 2,366 pounds of turkey.

Engine and boiler, No. 2845.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector at Portland, Oreg., for the purchase of one Erie City, No. 6, 25-horsepower horizontal return tubular portable boiler and one horizontal steam engine, etc. Specifications, etc., may be had on application to the above-named official.

Water coolers, No. 2846.—Sealed proposals will be received at the medical supply depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York City, until December 24, 1915, for furnishing 132 water coolers, iron tank, porcelain lined, wood jacket, 6 gallons, marked "Medical Department, U. S. A.," boxed separately.

Medical books, No. 2847.—Sealed proposals will be received at the medical supply depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York City, until December 24, 1915, for furnishing 20 copies of La Garde's "Gunshot Injuries"; 14 copies of Harvard's "Military Hygiene"; 20 copies of Potter's "Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Pharmacy"; 20 copies of Greene's "Medical Diagnosis"; 20 copies of Straub's "Medical Service in Campaign"; 20 copies of Hughes's "Practice of Medicine"; 20 copies of Bennie's "Surgery"; 20 copies of Stewart's "Surgery"; and 20 copies of Harrison & Munson's "Troop Leading."

SOUTH AFRICA'S PURCHASES OF COTTON GOODS.

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, Oct. 29.]

South Africa's imports of cotton manufactures during the six months ended September 30 were nearly 21 per cent greater than in the corresponding period of 1914, every month but April contributing to this increase. The chief articles imported were:

Cotton manufactures.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	Total.
Piece goods:							
1914.....	\$704,226	\$530,797	\$483,920	\$782,051	\$704,490	\$522,292	\$3,746,746
1915.....	467,831	682,449	708,631	949,796	874,267	1,143,983	4,826,956
Blankets, rugs, and sheeting:							
1914.....	210,140	205,702	142,199	94,906	51,381	43,268	747,586
1915.....	54,135	92,984	102,863	105,588	92,867	127,410	675,867
Shawls:							
1914.....	42,144	33,034	30,212	19,865	13,286	6,988	145,529
1915.....	8,988	9,582	13,407	16,605	16,274	16,586	81,441
Hosiery (underclothing):							
1914.....	305,461	265,521	250,776	360,252	265,291	196,096	1,643,397
1915.....	222,496	359,046	336,065	365,873	280,315	330,406	1,884,220
Other:							
1914.....	164,536	130,836	139,430	140,528	107,370	86,371	778,071
1915.....	82,322	175,602	167,506	245,286	226,015	266,296	1,165,225
Total:							
1914.....	1,426,507	1,174,890	1,056,537	1,406,602	1,141,788	855,005	7,061,329
1915.....	835,772	1,319,863	1,328,511	1,673,147	1,491,738	1,864,678	8,533,709

MACHINERY CATALOGUES FROM ITALY.

Consul Jay White, at Naples, has forwarded to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce catalogues of dealers at Naples in general machinery, olive presses, etc., fire engines, pumps, agricultural implements, mill machinery, macaroni machinery, and brick-making machinery. The dealers issuing the catalogues submitted them with the statement that present retail prices are about 15 per cent higher than those stated in the catalogues and that wholesale prices are about 20 per cent lower than retail prices. The catalogues may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 69452.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 403 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the **file number** given.

Toys, No. 19580.—A letter to the Bureau from a business man in Canada states that he desires to represent manufacturers of toys.

General representation, No. 19581.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Brazil which desires to act as agent for American manufacturers or exporters. No particular line of goods is mentioned.

Capital and investment, No. 19582.—An American consular officer reports that a company in Chile is anxious to secure American capital for the development of an irrigation scheme. It is stated that the company owns 31,000 acres of land and desires \$1,500,000 for this project, for which excellent terms can be made.

Dry goods, cereals, etc., No. 19583.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Porto Rico desiring to represent manufacturers of dry goods (cotton), cereals, rice, and beans.

Chinaware, stationery, etc., No. 19584.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a business man in his district desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of chinaware, stationery, pictures, and perfumery.

Dress goods, leather goods, etc., No. 19585.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that an importing agent desires to represent manufacturers of dress goods, principally blue and black chevots and serges; cotton velvets and velveteens; leather goods, such as glazed kids; ribbons, silks, linen and silk thread; buttons and tarpaulin cloth and cotton bags. Bank references are given.

Cotton prints, No. 19586.—A retail merchant in Venezuela informs an American consular officer that he desires to receive samples and prices of cotton prints, such as retail from 5 to 10 cents per yard. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Metal hollow ware, No. 19587.—A report from an American consular officer in Greece states that a company of retail merchants desires to communicate with firms interested in the exportation of metal hollow ware of all kinds for household use. The articles chiefly in demand are saucepans, meat dishes, shallow and deep; stewpans, with and without covers; dinner pails, ladles, soap dishes, buckets, washbasins, etc. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Patras, if possible, and correspondence may be in English.

Codfish, No. 19588.—An American consular officer reports that a firm in Brazil desires to import codfish from the United States. Correspondence must be in Portuguese and quotations c. i. f. port of destination.

Hospital equipment, No. 19589.—A Government official informs an American consular officer that he desires to receive catalogues and prices from manufacturers of hospital beds and equipment. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. port of destination in rubles, if possible. Correspondence should be in Russian.

Perfumery, photographic materials, thread, etc., No. 19590.—A report from an American consular officer states that a commission merchant in the Canary Islands desires to purchase perfumery, photographic materials, silk and cotton thread, varnishes, paints, and candles. The inquirer states that he is willing to pay cash against documents at port of destination. References are given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Household and agricultural hardware, etc., No. 19591.—An American consular officer in France reports that a commission merchant is desirous of making connections, on a purely commission basis, with manufacturers of household and agricultural hardware and lighting and heating apparatus.

Hosiery, No. 19592.—A business man in Canada informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in communication with exporters of women's cashmere hosiery, to be handled on a commission basis. It is stated that the present rate of duty on cashmere hosiery to Canada is 42½ per cent.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 297 Washington, D. C., Monday, December 20 1915

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RECORD-BREAKING CUBAN SUGAR CROP.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris, Cuba, Dec. 11.]

Grinding has commenced on the sugar crop of 1915-16, with 188 centrals as against 176 of last season, 12 fine, large, new modern mills having been gotten ready. The machinery for these came from the United States. The condition of the cane is declared to be the best in years. Prevailing cool weather has ripened it properly and added a higher saccharine content than usual.

Estimates of experts whose figures are always accepted as the best obtainable forecast show that the crop now under way will be a record one. What it means to the prosperity of the island and to trade generally can easily be foreseen when the crop of 1914-15 was valued at approximately \$205,000,000 and had the effect of electrifying all avenues of business and putting Cuban industry and trade in the best position it has yet held. If prevailing or approximate prices prevail—as there now seems to be no reason they will not—the effect of the present crop will be tremendous. The experts estimate the crop now under way at 3,175,000 tons, which ought, at average prices for the crop just completed, to bring \$250,000,000, an increase of \$45,000,000 over last year. Showing the rapid increase in value of the Cuban sugar the following figures tell how prosperity has come to the island: Crop of 1910-11, \$84,000,000; of 1911-12, \$121,467,749; of 1912-13, \$115,394,602; of 1913-14, \$130,424,397; of 1914-15, \$205,000,000. The United States has been selling Cuba 83.14 per cent of the goods purchased, and the percentage will run greater this year.

DANISH TRADE EXTENSION IN RUSSIA.

[Russian-American Journal of Commerce, December.]

That the Danes are eager to increase their trade with Russia can be seen from the Danish Calendar for Exports, just published. The calendar has been published with the help of the Danish Department of Commerce and 6,000 copies of it have been sent to Russia to be distributed free of charge among the leading commercial and industrial circles.

BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY EXTENDS RESEARCH.

Work for increasing the production of foods, including new uses for farm and sea products, the utilization of wastes, and the development of methods for preventing spoilage in perishable products, has been greatly extended during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, according to the report of the Chief Chemist of the United States Department of Agriculture, which has just been published. The research work directed toward conserving the food supply, by developing new uses for products and preventing waste or spoilage, has been separated from that directed toward the detection of adulteration, with resultant increased activity and efficiency in both lines of work. It is intended, the report states, to give special attention to the development of research relating to the application of chemistry to agriculture.

Eliminating Waste and Inefficient Production.

A laboratory was established to study the decomposition and fermentation of food products with the object of lessening the great waste that occurs from these causes. Studies are under way relating to spoilage in cheese, butter, cereals, and forage and feeding stuffs. Investigations looking to better methods for handling, packing, storing, and shipping fish, poultry, and eggs were continued throughout the year.

The enormous losses due to the breakage of eggs in transit have been reduced by the adoption on the part of the shippers of methods developed by these studies for bracing eggs in cases, bracing cases in cars, and bracing, buffing, and shifting cars. Experiments were commenced to determine the best methods of feeding poultry for increase in weight and quality. The sardine investigations were continued and resulted in a further improvement of the quality of the pack. Methods for utilizing waste in the sardine industry were recommended, and in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry the feeding value of fish meal was determined.

Improvement of Methods of Making Cane Sirup.

Important progress was made in investigations for the improvement of the methods of manufacture of cane sirup, in order to obtain a uniformly bright sirup that will not ferment. The work to improve methods of manufacture of candy, jams, preserves, jellies, and marmalades was continued. Experiments in drying potatoes on a commercial scale for stock feed were begun during the year. Other work on potatoes included methods for the manufacture of potato starch, glucose, and dextrin. This work is designed to utilize cull potatoes which are not suitable for food purposes and to provide an outlet for the surplus supply in years of overproduction. Investigations for a similar purpose were continued in connection with citrus fruits by giving attention to developing methods for manufacturing citric acid, lemon oil, orange juice, orange vinegar, and other by-products from oranges and lemons.

Cooperation with State officials has been particularly effective in advancing the work on standards. A joint committee on definitions and standards, representing the Federal officials and the State organizations that are interested in food-law enforcement, has been formed. During the past year standards for a number of food products have been formulated and adopted.

WORK OF THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

The annual report of the Bureau of Animal Industry, of the Department of Agriculture, which has just been published, states that satisfactory progress was made during the year in the work of eradicating a number of animal diseases. In addition to stamping out the foot-and-mouth disease, much was done in the South toward the elimination of the cattle tick, and in the West the eradication of scabies of sheep and cattle has been brought nearer to completion.

In the territory already freed of cattle ticks which, including the area freed since the beginning of the current fiscal year, is now more than one-third of that formerly quarantined, work is being done for the building up of the beef cattle and dairy industries. Effective co-operation, it is said, has come from transportation companies, commercial clubs, bankers, and other business men who were farsighted enough to realize that the eradication of the cattle tick and the subsequent development of the live-stock industry mean an increase of business for all interests concerned. The work of eradication is being done in cooperation with State authorities, and is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible with the means at hand.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, nearly 10,000 square miles in the State of Utah were released from quarantine on account of sheep scabies. Nearly 4,000,000 sheep were dipped in this quarantined area during the fiscal year, in cooperation with State officials. A total of 74,200 square miles was also released from quarantine on account of cattle scabies. Progress is reported in the eradication of dourine in horses and in the treatment of anthrax.

Not Yet Ready for Country-Wide Hog-Cholera Campaign.

Hog-cholera work has been continued, the report says, and now consists of investigations into the possibilities of county control, educational work designed to secure the aid of the farmers, and the enforcement of the virus-serum-toxin law. The results show, the report says, that losses from hog cholera can be reduced to a minimum and the industry of hog raising increased in any given area. At the present time, however, a country-wide campaign for the eradication of hog cholera is regarded as ill advised. As a preliminary to such a campaign, the various States should have more effective laws for dealing with diseases of live stock and more effective legislation for the enforcement of the laws.

In connection with the problems of production, the report calls attention to the value of the boys' and girls' pig clubs and poultry clubs. The pig clubs now have 9,000 members and the poultry clubs nearly 4,000. Improvement in the quality of market milk is noticeable as a result of the efforts of the department and various other agencies. Furthermore, by means of cow-testing associations, the milk yield of many dairy herds is being increased and the cost reduced. The report calls attention to the increasing extent of the meat-inspection service, more than 58,000,000 animals having been slaughtered under Federal inspection during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915. Over seven and a half billion pounds of meat and meat-food products were prepared under Federal inspection.

According to the New Zealand Trade Review, the estimated population of New Zealand on September 30, 1915, was 1,164,745. Digitized by Google

LARGE INCREASE IN AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

The following tables, made public by Secretary of Commerce Redfield, are supplementary to the detailed statistics in the annual report of the Commissioner of Navigation for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, and bring down to December 1 the figures of the United States merchant marine and of the vessels being constructed or under contract to be built in American shipyards, aggregating 761,511 gross tons.

Following is a brief summary of numbers of the larger ocean steamers which make up the great bulk of the 761,511 gross tons, classed as to size:

Construction periods.	10,000 gross tons or over.	7,000 to 10,000	5,000 to 17,000	4,000 to 5,000	3,000 to 4,000	Total.
Building or under contract on July 1, 1915..	8	5	19	4	10	46
Ordered between July 1 and Dec. 1, 1915.....	5	15	17	6	9	52
Total.....	13	20	36	10	19	98

These same vessels, of 3,000 tons or more, grouped according to the class of traffic for which they are designed, with the number and gross tonnage in each class, are:

Classes of vessels.	Building or under contract on July 1, 1915.		Contracted for between July 1 and Dec. 1, 1915.		Total.	
	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.
Colliers.....	6	25,475	5	25,610	11	51,085
Bulk oil.....	19	153,669	28	195,330	47	348,999
General freight.....	19	93,774	15	72,444	34	166,208
Passenger and freight.....	2	9,800	4	30,228	6	40,028
Total.....	46	282,718	52	323,602	98	606,320

* Four of 3,500 gross tons each for Norwegian owners; two of 5,000 gross tons each for foreign owners.

Record of Merchant Construction and Contracts.

The shipbuilding companies that are included in the record of merchant construction and contracts, both on July 1 and since July 1, are as follows:

Companies.	On July 1.		Since July 1.		Total.	
	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.
New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.....	13	92,163	9	28,610	22	120,773
For River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quincy, Mass.....	5	28,000	3	17,000	8	45,000
William Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co., Philadelphia, Pa.....	4	19,200	9	59,700	13	78,900
The Pusey & Jones Co., Wilmington, Del.....			5	1,364	5	1,364
Baltimore Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.....	2	828	4	14,000	6	14,828
Maryland Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.....	9	30,250	5	31,600	14	70,850
Harlan & Hollingsworth, Wilmington, Del.....	5	24,147	10	41,605	15	65,752
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.....	9	60,468	10	71,625	19	132,093
Chester Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.....			3	14,000	3	14,000
Ellicott Machine Corporation, Baltimore, Md.....			3	750	3	750
Staen Island Shipbuilding Co., Port Richmond, N. Y.....	7	1,923	4	1,341	11	3,264
Spedden Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.....			1	(e)	1	

* Not reported.

Companies.	On July 1.		Since July 1.		Total.	
	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.
Union Ironworks, San Francisco, Cal.....	5	27,077	7	54,097	12	81,174
United Engineering Works, Oakland, Cal.....			1	3,500	1	3,500
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., Seattle, Wash.....			2	7,800	2	7,800
American Bridge Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.....			16	10,530	16	10,530
Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio.....			7	17,900	7	17,103
American Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio:						
Lorain, Ohio, yard.....	1	6,800	4	28,000	5	34,800
Cleveland yard.....			2	4,200	2	4,200
Detroit yard.....			4	8,400	4	8,400
Chicago yard.....			1	2,100	1	2,100
Chicago Shipbuilding Co., Chicago, Ill.....			1	(e)	1	
Great Lakes Engineering Works, Detroit.....	3	4,700	11	32,280	14	36,980
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Manitowoc, Wis.....	1	2,000	4	1,000	5	3,000
Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me.....	1	300			1	300
Moore & Scott Iron Works, Oakland, Cal.....	1	222			1	222
Clinton Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia.....	1	560			1	560
Dubuque Boat & Boiler Works, Dubuque, Iowa.....	2	525			2	525
The Charles Barnes Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.....	1	300			1	300
Great Lakes Towing Co., Cleveland, Ohio.....	4	332			4	332
Johnson Bros., Ferrysburg, Mich.....	1	94			1	94
Howard Shipyards Co., Jeffersonville, Ind.....	1	1,400			1	1,400
Total.....	76	310,089	126	451,422	202	761,511

^a Not reported.

Statement of United States merchant marine as at Dec. 1, 1915.

	Vessels.	Gross tons.
Documented tonnage, June 30, 1915.....	26,701	8,389,429
Net increase, July 1 to Nov. 30, 1915.....	187	53,829
Total, Dec. 1, 1915.....	26,888	8,443,258

The above net increase is brought about as follows:

	Vessels.	Gross tons.
Built in the United States and officially numbered.....	436	84,382
American registry authorized under the act of Aug. 18, 1914.....	23	60,354
Total, Dec. 1, 1915.....	459	144,736
Deduct—lost, abandoned, sold aliens, etc.....	272	90,907
Net increase, Dec. 1, 1915.....	187	53,829

Foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the act of Aug. 18, 1914.

	Vessels.	Gross tons.
During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915.....	148	523,379
July 1 to Nov. 30, 1915.....	23	60,354
Total Dec. 1, 1915 ^a	171	583,733

^a Included in this total are 6 yachts of 2,681 gross tons.

Vessels transferred to other flags since the act of Aug. 18, 1914.

	Vessels.	Gross tons.
Aug. 18, 1914 to June 30, 1915.....	66	13,017
July 1 to Nov. 30, 1915.....	26	24,184
Total, Dec. 1, 1915 ^a	92	37,201

^a Included in this total are 3 vessels of 9,311 gross tons, admitted to American registry under the act of Aug. 18, 1914, and subsequently transferred as follows: Steamer *Oceana*, 7,796 gross tons, to Spanish flag, Sept. 22, 1915; schooner-barge *Turpan*, 869 gross tons to Cuban flag, Nov. 22, 1915; schooner-barge *Panuco*, 646 gross tons, to Cuban flag, Nov. 22, 1915.

STATISTICS OF CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The commission form of government is in effect in 81 of the 204 cities in the United States of over 30,000 inhabitants. Civil-service regulations are applied to the appointment of policemen in 122 such cities, including all those of more than 300,000 inhabitants. Police-women are employed in 26 cities. Municipal prohibition prevails in 15 cities, State prohibition in 17, and county and parish prohibition in 3. In 15 cities certain saloons are licensed to sell malt liquors only. These are a few of the significant and interesting facts which will be brought out in a report under the title of "General Statistics of Cities, 1915," to be issued in the near future by the United States Bureau of the Census.

The largest city now operating under the commission form of government is New Orleans, whose population is estimated at about 365,000; but Buffalo, with a population of about 460,000, has recently voted to inaugurate this system on January 1, 1916. Next in order are Washington, D. C., with nearly 350,000 inhabitants, Portland, Oreg., with about 260,000, and Denver, with about 250,000.

In these cities the commissions range in size from three to seven members. Those in St. Paul and Omaha have seven members each; those in San Diego, Cal., and Fort Worth, Tex., six each; and that in Huntington, W. Va., four. All the other commissions are composed of either three or five members, the great majority having five. The salaries paid municipal commissioners range from \$500 a year in Jackson, Mich., and Springfield, Ohio, to \$7,000 a year in Birmingham, Ala., and their terms of office vary from 1 to 4 years.

"City Manager" Has Charge of Administrative Work.

Dayton, Ohio, has a commission of five members, which decides matters of general policy, and a "city manager," appointed by the commission, who looks after the administrative work. The presiding officer of the commission receives \$1,800 per annum, the other members \$1,200 and the city manager \$12,500.

The larger cities still cling to the older form of government by mayor and council. In all, 123 cities of over 30,000, including all having more than 400,000 inhabitants, are governed in this manner. The mayors' salaries range from \$100 per annum in Flint, Mich., to \$15,000 in New York City, and their terms of office from 1 to 4 years.

A total of 51,045 police officials, patrolmen, detectives, and civilian employees are engaged in the work of maintaining peace and order in the 204 cities. Of this total, 5,586 are officers, exclusive of detectives, 34,320 are patrolmen, 3,303 are detectives, and 3,015 are civilian employees. Of the patrolmen, 31,294 are unmounted and 1,804 are mounted on horses, 708 on motorcycles, and 514 on bicycles. Park policemen number 248, and policemen detailed at municipal buildings and courts, 390.

New York has 526 mounted policemen, Philadelphia 435, and Chicago 186. No other city has as many as 100. In New York City 135 of the mounted police ride bicycles, but Chicago and Philadelphia rely entirely upon the horse and the motorcycle. Washington, D. C., has 61 bicycle policemen—far more than any other city except New York, and its total number of mounted policemen, 101, is

greater than that of any other city except New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

The highest paid patrolmen are those of San Francisco, who are ungraded and receive \$1,464 per annum; and the lowest paid—disregarding those in the lower grades in a few cities—are in Williamsport, Pa., where patrolmen are ungraded and receive \$756 per annum.

Terms of Service Necessary to Attain Highest Grade.

The longest term of service necessary to attain the highest grade is found in Savannah, Ga. In this city the patrolman serves five years at \$900, five at \$960, and five more at \$1,020, and thereafter receives \$1,080. In Terre Haute, Ind., and Charleston, S. C., the maximum rates of pay—\$1,080 and \$1,020, respectively—are reached after 10 years of service.

Among cities of 100,000 or more, the longest term of service necessary to attain the highest grade is found in Washington, D. C., where, after three years of service at \$900 and five more at \$1,080, the patrolman finally receives \$1,200 per annum.

Of police women, Chicago has 21; Baltimore, Los Angeles, and Seattle, 5 each; Pittsburgh, 4; San Francisco, Portland, Oreg., and St. Paul, 3 each; and Dayton, Ohio, Topeka, Kans., and Minneapolis, Minn., 2 each. Fifteen other cities have 1 each. Their pay ranges from \$625 per annum in Dayton to \$1,200 in San Francisco.

State, Municipal, and County Prohibition.

Prohibition by State law prevails in 17 cities of 30,000 and over—4 each in Georgia and Tennessee, 3 in Kansas, 2 each in Oklahoma and West Virginia, and 1 each in Maine and North Carolina. Municipal prohibition is in effect in 15 cities—8 in Massachusetts, 2 each in Illinois and California, and 1 each in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Washington. County prohibition has closed the saloons in 2 Michigan cities and parish prohibition has closed them in 1 Louisiana city. There are thus 35 cities in which total prohibition prevails. In addition, there are 8—4 in Ohio, 2 in Colorado, and 1 each in Pennsylvania and Illinois—in which partial prohibition is in effect through the operation of what is known as the "district" system, under which certain districts or sections of the city may, by popular vote, abolish their saloons, while other sections retain them.

The largest city which has adopted prohibition independently of State or county action in the matter is Cambridge, Mass., whose population is estimated at between 110,000 and 111,000. The largest city in which the saloons have been closed by State enactment is Atlanta, Ga., with approximately 180,000 inhabitants.

Of the 204 cities of over 30,000, 155 have municipally owned water-supply systems, the total estimated value of which is \$1,071,000,000. Municipal ownership in this field has been in force in Philadelphia, which built its plant in 1801 and has operated it continuously since that time, for a longer period than in any other city.

The bulk of the water supply for most cities comes, of course, from lakes and streams, but there are 3,634 wells in operation in 47 cities. Of these, 1,367 are in New York City alone.

Five processes of purification are employed, namely, sedimentation, coagulation, slow sand filtration, mechanical filtration, and chemical sterilization.

UNITED STATES SHIPPING FORMALINE TO JAPAN.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Japan, Nov. 19.]

The United States did not begin to export formaline to Japan until early in 1915. A resident American merchant states that the goods which now come from the United States are satisfactory when packed in glass carboys, but when packed in wooden barrels the formaline arrives discolored and does not pass the required test. It is then either rejected or disposed of at a greatly reduced figure. The fact that shipments of formaline in glass carboys must be stored on deck involves an expensive risk, and as a result the business does not prove attractive to many shippers.

Formaline which arrived in Japan from markets other than American during 1912, 1913, and 1914, was packed in aluminum jugs, these jugs being protected by a wicker wrapper. When thus packed it always reached Japan in a satisfactory condition.

The greater part of the formaline imported is used in the silk industry of Japan as a disinfectant. The import duty is 5.10 yen per 100 kin, or \$1.92 per 100 pounds. The amounts and value of the imports of formaline during 1912, 1913, and 1914 were:

Places of origin.	1914		1913		1912	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
Kwangtung.....	14 027	\$1,804				
United Kingdom.....	152,146	14,703	94,316	\$8,980	182,892	\$18,467
France.....	445,392	41,995	209,616	20,026	102,967	9,724
Germany.....	393,964	37,588	540,255	52,521	587,251	\$8,285
Belgium.....	29,791	2,761	9,933	1,062	90,692	8,857
Switzerland.....					111	12
Netherlands.....					36,267	3,674
Sweden.....	29,200	2,651				
Total.....	1,064,620	101,305	954,120	92,579	1,000,180	99,159

RULES FOR ITALIAN WHEAT AND BREAD.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Oct. 2.]

A decree was issued at Rome August 23, 1915, providing for the production of a uniform kind of flour, and making regulations as to its sale in lead-sealed sacks with proper labeling. There is also a prohibition of the removal of certain elements from flour or the adding to it of other commercial or inferior values. The decree was, in part:

Mills are prohibited from producing flour from wheat intended for bread making in which less than 80 per cent of the wheat is used. It is also prohibited to take from flour normal elements and add to it other commercial values and inferior foodstuffs. It is prohibited to keep, sell, or deliver wheat flour intended for the production of bread, unless it is put into lead-sealed sacks. Each sack shall bear the following indications: Name of the operating mill, quality of flour, and limit of sifting, or a declaration that the flour was not sifted. For such indications, operating mills shall make use of labels, lead or otherwise, firmly attached to the sack.

Officials and agents indicated in article 4 of the ministerial decree of March 7, 1915, shall be charged with the enforcement of the law relative to the regulations regarding the production and commerce in flour and bread, and shall provide for haling offenders before the judicial authority.

KARACHI TO USE SMALL ENGINES EXTENSIVELY.

[Consul James Oliver Lalag, Karachi, India, Oct. 11.]

A firm in Karachi desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of small engines capable of being driven by electricity. The firm will import about 15 of these engines for its first order. They must be capable of developing about 5 horsepower and should be as simple as possible in construction. If the first order proves successful, the firm is ready to push the engines upcountry, and the successful American house or houses will find a steady market here.

In India the lower and middle classes do not, as a rule, leave their homes or the districts where they were born. It thus happens that members of enormous "families" live close to one another. A "family" consists of everyone of a group even remotely related, such as fourth or fifth cousins. Very often there is a kind of pooling of interests among the members of such a group.

Family Groups Buy Machines for Grinding.

The food is largely "chapatties," a kind of flat cake made of roughly ground wheat, millet, chick peas, or rice. The members of a group often "chip in" and buy a machine to grind the meal (called "atta" locally). Sometimes this small mill is run by an oil engine, or by one that can be stoked with wood or coal, and sometimes, when the mill is small, it is run by hand. The mills look very much like the coffee-grinding mill in an American grocery store, but are usually larger.

Recently electricity has made great strides in India, and the natives are learning to use it. The local electrical works recently advertised to furnish not only electricity for lighting, but also power for mechanical purposes. The firm mentioned in this report sees a future for small engines run by power furnished by the electrical works, and wants to get in "on the ground floor." Several of these small engines are already in use here for the purpose mentioned, but as these machines are not kept in stock here the supply must come from abroad.

American manufacturers are urged to try to come to an understanding with this firm, as it will mean steady, continuing business. The firm is one of the largest in northwest India. It has placed a credit of \$50,000 in Detroit, Mich., for the purchase of American goods, and is now in daily consultation with the consulate over an electrical proposition involving another \$50,000.

American Trade Journals Produce Business.

The head of the firm is kept supplied with various American trade journals, and last week the house ordered a large bill of goods from advertisements in these papers, comprising many small articles such as are sold here in general stores—candlesticks, small metal pitchers, small night lamps to be used in babies' rooms, and other similar articles.

American manufacturers should not delay, as they did when several firms were advised of the prospective market here for electrical goods some time ago. They went to sleep, and now an English firm is wiring the town and supplying all the bulbs and other fixtures.

[The name of the firm mentioned in this dispatch may be obtained of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices by referring to Trade Opportunity No. 19491.]

AMERICAN PRODUCTION OF SODIUM AND SODIUM PEROXIDE.

[Commercial Agent Thomas H. Norton.]

The production of sodium and sodium peroxide is now attracting considerable attention. The latter is now manufactured exclusively from metallic sodium; it serves also as the starting point for the manufacture of sodium cyanide. The American production of sodium has been somewhat limited. The output has been used chiefly for the manufacture of peroxide. At present, there is an enormous demand for both sodium peroxide and sodium cyanide, the former for use chiefly in bleaching operations, the latter for use in metallurgy. Prior to the current war the bleaching and metallurgical interests of this country were largely dependent upon European sources for both salts.

The works at Niagara Falls, currently engaged in the manufacture of metallic sodium, are unable to meet more than a fraction of the present demand for this metal from manufacturers of sodium peroxide and from manufacturers of cyanide.

In view of the urgent necessities of a large group of American manufacturers, and of a multitude of manufacturing interests dependent upon the use of the bleaching agent, as well as upon the use of cyanides in the extraction of gold, it would appear as if the time is ripe for the establishment, upon a much larger scale than heretofore has been the case, of American production of sodium.

It is worthy of note in this connection that the mechanical equipment for the Castner process of the electrolytic manufacture of sodium from sodium hydrate (caustic soda) is exceedingly simple. The question naturally arises whether the many interests dependent upon these two vital salts may not find it advantageous to unite and organize without delay for the manufacture of metallic sodium. It would take but a few weeks for the firms now so well equipped for the construction of electrolytic devices to put up the necessary plant. The electrical equipment is of a standard character, and is probably kept constantly in stock.

It might also be noted that the full complement of electric power at Niagara Falls, guaranteed under the treaty of 1910, for use on the American side of the Falls, has not yet attained its maximum limit. The Castner patents expired a few years since. The American output of caustic soda is now quite abundant. The available power at the Falls would be fully able to meet any additional demand in connection with the enlargement of the sodium industry.

The Darling process for the manufacture of metallic sodium has been utilized to some extent at Philadelphia. It is based upon the use of fused sodium nitrate as electrolyte. The mechanical equipment needed for the electrolytic decomposition of sodium nitrate is quite as simple as that employed in the Castner process.

It is also worthy of note at the present moment, when manufacturers of dyestuffs and of high explosives, as well as a multitude of other chemicals, are struggling with the increasing shortage in the supply of nitric acid, that the acid mentioned is the only by-product resultant from the decomposition of sodium nitrate when exposed to the action of the electric current.

The prompt installation of the necessary plant for transforming Chile salt-peter (sodium nitrate) into metallic sodium, and into nitric

acid, might be advantageously taken up under existing circumstances with great benefit to a large variety of consumers of both products. Very full details, with plans of the mechanical equipment, are to be found in Thorpe's Dictionary of Applied Chemistry, Vol. V, page 1, and in other standard authorities.

ALFALFA STARTED IN CUBA.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The successful demonstration by President Mario Menocal of the adaptability of alfalfa for Cuba is regarded as one of considerable importance for his country. It also opens up large possibilities of new lines of business with the island Republic, such, for instance, as mowers, hay rakes, baling outfits, machinery for the mixing of feeds, of which alfalfa forms a component. Additionally, it will give decided impetus to the raising of fine stock in Cuba.

The alfalfa at President Menocal's ranch "El Chico," situate about 10 miles from Habana, was planted in May last, and up to the middle of November there had been four cuttings. There is over an acre in the demonstration plot. It is well grown, has a fine color, and is as thrifty as any to be found in the United States. The soil of Cuba, owing to the coral formation, has a high content of lime, and this is indispensable to the plant. The experiment station has made several attempts to get a stand of alfalfa, but owing to some deficiency in the inoculating chemicals the bacteria did not "take" and the plants did not grow. With this fine healthy plot of it available, with soil from the president's ranch, there will be no difficulty in extending the area in the useful alfalfa; and, as planters seem greatly interested, it is fair to assume that the next few years will see many large fields of it in Cuba.

PAINTS AND VARNISHES IN COSTA RICA.

[Consul Chester Donaldson, Port Limon, Nov. 25.]

The total importation of paints, varnishes, and enamels at Port Limon, Costa Rica, is valued at \$40,000 per annum, about 50 per cent of which is from England, 40 per cent from the United States, and 10 per cent from Germany and other countries. [A list of the principal importers of paints, varnishes, and enamels has been furnished by Consul Chester Donaldson and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to File No. 70004.]

The duty on paints (without color) is 0.20 colon per kilo, equivalent, including the surtax of 5 per cent of the duty on imports at Port Limon, to \$4.43 per 100 pounds. (1 kilo=2.2046 pounds; 1 colon=46.5 cents.)

ANOTHER VESSEL FOR CARIBBEAN TRADE.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The Caribbean & Southern Steamship Co. (formerly Seeborg Line), operating out of New York, Mobile, and New Orleans and specializing somewhat on the territory as its name indicates, has just purchased the Eudorean steamship *Constitution*, of 5,600 tons, which vessel will be used in the rapidly growing business of the line.

MAIL-ORDER TRADE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Consul Thomas D. Bowman, Fernie, Canada, Nov. 24.]

Under normal conditions the Fernie consular district appears to offer a fair field for development by American mail-order houses. This district is located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains and most of the settlements follow the lines of railroads through the narrow passes and valleys. Lumbering and mining are the chief industries. There are no large towns, the largest being Nelson, with a population locally estimated at 7,000.

It is not practicable for the stores in these small towns to carry as large and varied an assortment of stock in many lines (especially those in which the styles are continually changing) as the large stores in the cities and the mail-order houses. The nearest large city that can offer this district superior advantages in shopping is Calgary, Alberta, which is over 200 miles from Fernie. Consequently mail-order houses do a thriving business in Fernie, and as similar conditions obtain through most of the district, it is safe to assume that the same thing is true of other towns. A firm of Winnipeg, Manitoba, appears to get the bulk of this trade.

American Share of Trade.

American dealers have had a share of the trade in this district, although the present war surtax, which increases the duty on all American goods $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, making the total duty range as high as $42\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in some lines, is discouraging. But as preference for American goods has never been based upon cheapness alone, it may still be worth while for American firms to seek Canadian mail-order trade, as some are doing.

Among the classes of merchandise that are still being bought directly in the United States by local consumers who must pay the present heavy duties are shoes and women's clothing, including fancy trimmings and kindred lines. American goods have a good reputation here for "up-to-dateness" and style, and in any line of merchandise where advanced styles are an important factor the American goods will command attention. It is particularly in such lines that the consumer finds the local store inadequate and for this reason resorts to the mail-order catalogue.

Separate Catalogues for Different Kinds of Articles.

The following suggestions are the result of investigation into the practice of certain firms, complaints of local patrons of mail-order houses in general, and of American houses in particular.

American catalogues generally compare favorably with those of Canadian houses. Good illustrations and accurate descriptions are important. A poor picture gives a corresponding impression of the goods. Inaccurate or inadequate descriptions are bad for the trade. One handicap is the duty of \$0.15 per pound on mail-order catalogues imported by mail from the United States into Canada. For this reason it has been found practicable to issue several small catalogues, each covering a single line. One who desires to buy shoes only, for example, can receive a small shoe catalogue, and not have to pay duty upon a large catalogue containing also many other things in which he has no interest. It is not meant, however, that shoes

should necessarily be confined to one catalogue. It has been suggested that the mail-order houses of the United States send out an advance card or letter with a list of their various catalogues, giving the amount of duty upon each, if they so desire. Then the customers might select the catalogues that interest them. This applies, of course, to those firms doing a general merchandise trade. Houses handling only limited lines, like jewelry or women's clothing, generally do not need large catalogues. Another suggestion is that American firms might offer to credit the customer with the amount of the duty on their catalogues upon the first order received. However, it is believed that the consumers would not object to paying a small duty upon light catalogues if they were interested. [The name of a person of good standing who is prepared to furnish mailing lists upon request may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69417.]

Need of Accuracy in Correspondence and in Filling Orders.

At its best trading by mail has its disadvantages, the loss of time being one of them in this district. A person in Fernie recently asked a large mail-order house in the United States to send samples of goods for making riding breeches. He received in reply two books containing samples of every kind of cloth except those from which riding breeches are ordinarily made. In one of the books was a notice that the American firm carried a large line of corduroys, khaki, and fustian fabrics especially for making up riding breeches, samples of which would be sent upon request. The man had planned a hunting trip, and did not have time to wait another two weeks for samples. The American dealer lost his trade and disappointed him.

It is sometimes necessary to make inquiries regarding articles in a catalogue because of inadequate descriptions. It takes fully five days for a letter to pass between Fernie and New York. Allowing two or three days in which to fill an order, it may be seen that it takes almost half a month to get goods. The dealer should therefore exercise great care to answer inquiries and fill orders promptly and completely in order to obviate the necessity of further correspondence. Complaints have been heard that American firms do not always fill orders accurately, but sometimes substitute colors or send wrong sizes.

Parcel Post—Ports and Subports of Entry.

The parcel post offers a most convenient form of delivery to Canada for small articles. The merchandise is appraised at the nearest customhouse and the consignee is notified of the amount of duty. He may then remit the duty by mail and the goods will be forwarded to his post office by customs officers. However, most of the larger towns of this district have customs offices. The consignee need only go to the customs office, pay the duty, and receive the goods.

The following towns of British Columbia have customs offices: Fernie, Newgate, Natal, Flathead, Cranbrook, Kingsgate, Nelson, Juanita, Kaslo, Grand Forks, Cascade, Laurier, Greenwood, Phoenix, Midway, Revelstoke, and Golden. Goods may be consigned to any person at the above ports or subports, direct from the United States. Shippers should familiarize themselves with the requirements of the Canadian customs authorities regarding invoices.

CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS IN CUBA.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

The market for fertilizers in Cuba is a comparatively recent one. Their employment, however, has given such markedly good results that they are now firmly established. The more progressive growers who have used chemical fertilizers have obtained such increased yields that the other planters are being compelled, in self-defense, to adopt the same methods. It is inevitable that the marketing of fertilizers for both cane and tobacco will expand greatly and will furnish an important branch of trade in this island Republic.

A plant has been established near Habana for making sulphuric and hydrochloric acid, and a plant is in process of erection near Matanzas for the manufacture of complete fertilizer, the raw material being imported. Both plants were erected by American capital. In addition, German fertilizer plants and potash agencies maintain a propaganda, as does the Chilean nitrate sales department. There are agencies of several of the American packing interests on the island selling fertilizer.

The feature of the fertilizer trade that is considered a drawback is that sales are made on 12 months' time to the sugar planters and 9 months' to tobacco growers, direct, and without interest. This direct selling makes it necessary to maintain a branch office, and sales force and collection agency on the island to push sales, look after maturing paper, and the like. Notwithstanding this the fertilizer business is considered to have a great future ahead of it in Cuba. In 1913 Cuba imported 21,700 metric tons (metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds) of chemical fertilizers, value \$806,185, of which the United States supplied 16,220 tons, value \$613,697. In 1914 the imports dropped to 10,304 tons, valued at \$268,759, and the share of the United States to 3,153 tons, value \$78,349.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Peck, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenço Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracalbo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

SECOND FORECAST OF INDIAN COTTON CROP.¹

[Consul General James A. Smith, Calcutta, Oct. 30.]

The Department of Statistics has just published the second forecast of India's cotton crop for the season 1915-16, based on reports furnished by Provinces which comprise the entire cotton crop of India. The forecast relates generally to sowings made up to October 1.

The total area so far reported this year amounts to 16,253,000 acres as against 22,152,000 acres (revised figure) on this date last year, a decrease of 27 per cent.

The decrease is most noticeable in Ajmermerwara (58 per cent), Rajputana (44 per cent), Bombay, the Punjab, and the United Provinces (40 per cent each), Sind (28 per cent), Central India (22 per cent), Hyderabad (20 per cent), and the Central Provinces and Berar (13 per cent). Madras alone shows an increase of 6 per cent.

As stated in the first forecast issued in August last, the decrease in the area sown this year is attributed chiefly to the low prices of cotton obtained last year, and in some Provinces also to the vagaries of the monsoon. The present condition of the crop is reported to be on the whole fair to good, except in the Punjab, the Northwest Frontier Province, the United Provinces, Rajputana, and Burma. In these Provinces the unirrigated crop has suffered severely from want of rain.

The detailed figures of the second forecast for the Provinces and States are given in the statement below:

Provinces and States.	1915-16	1914-15	1913-14
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Bombay and Baroda.....	3,917,000	6,526,000	6,004,000
Central Provinces and Berar.....	4,091,000	4,727,000	4,654,000
Madras.....	1,285,000	1,509,000	596,000
Punjab.....	1,090,000	1,821,000	1,930,000
United Provinces.....	850,000	1,408,000	1,341,000
Sind.....	233,000	323,000	291,000
Burma.....	220,000	267,000	252,000
Bihar and Orissa.....	68,000	71,000	84,000
Bengal.....	86,000	90,000	85,000
Northwest Frontier Province.....	51,000	58,000	59,000
Ajmer-Merwara.....	18,000	43,000	43,000
Assam.....	32,000	32,000	35,000
Hyderabad.....	2,888,000	3,617,000	3,439,000
Central India.....	1,117,000	1,435,000	1,368,000
Rajputana.....	237,000	421,000	414,000
Mysore.....	70,000	84,000	48,000
Total.....	16,253,000	22,152,000	20,643,000

^a Including native States.

CORRECT ADDRESSES OF CONSULAR OFFICES.

[Consul General P. S. Helntzleman, Mukden, China, Nov. 18.]

It is suggested that American manufacturers and exporters who send circular letters and catalogues to consular offices consult the latest revised consular list before mailing. The Mukden consulate general is still receiving letters and catalogues from various American manufacturers and exporters addressed to the consulate at Newchwang, China, which office has been discontinued for almost one year. The sender loses the postage as well as the stationery and printed matter.

¹ Figures of the first forecast of the Indian cotton crop were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 27, 1915.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the file number given.

Pig iron, iron bars, etc., No. 19593.—The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is informed that a neutral European country desires names and addresses of manufacturers of pig iron, iron bars, and plates. Offers may be submitted through the representative of the foreign government in Washington, D. C.

Cotton goods, white drills, No. 19594.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that a firm in the Far East desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers or exporters of the following lines of cotton goods: White drills, 28 inches wide, 3 and 5 leaf twill construction, with 2.50 to 4 yards per pound; khaki drills, 28 to 29 inches wide, 4-leaf twill construction, 6 to 8 ounces per yard; white or bleached shirtings, 36 inches wide, 72/72 to 88/88 picks per inch (finished), soft and medium finish; prints, 28 inches wide, costing 5 to 7 cents per yard f. o. b. New York; black, 5-harness sateens, 28 to 30 inches wide, costing 6 to 10 cents per yard f. o. b. New York; black and other colored velvet, 22 to 23 inches wide, costing 15 to 30 cents per yard f. o. b. New York; ginghams, madras, chambrays, and fancy shirtings 28 to 29 inches wide, costing 5 to 8 cents per yard f. o. b. New York. The firm is prepared to pay cash in New York on the day of shipment. Correspondence may be in English, and samples and prices, with a code word to designate each sample, should be sent in the first communication.

Galvanized steel cables, etc., No. 19595.—A commercial organization informs the Bureau that a business man in Spain desires to correspond with manufacturers of galvanized steel cables, manilla cables, and ropes for fishing nets.

Underwear, cutlery, etc., No. 19596.—An American consular officer in South Africa reports that a man in his district desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of underwear for women and children; cheap cutlery, light hardware, and cotton goods. The inquirer desires the sole agency for these articles in South Africa. Correspondence, catalogues, prices, and discount lists may be in English. References are given.

Drugs and druggists' sundries, No. 19597.—A report from an American consular officer states that a retail establishment in China desires to communicate with manufacturers of drugs and druggists' sundries. Catalogues, samples, prices, and discounts f. o. b. Pacific ports are desired. Terms, sight draft or 30 or 90 day draft. Bank references are given.

Railroad materials, supplies, etc., No. 19598.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commercial organization stating that a business man in Spanish North Africa desires catalogues and price lists from American manufacturers of railroad material and supplies. It is stated that the inquirer has customers holding a contract for the construction of a railroad line, French gauge, 1.446 meters, and need 80-horsepower engines, passenger and freight cars, etc. Quotations, f. o. b. New York or Cadiz, are also requested for gasoline, kerosene, and refined and crude oil.

Chemical products, No. 19599.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of chemical products. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Wire for making bed and chair springs, No. 19600.—A report from an American consular officer states that a manufacturer of beds and chairs in France desires to purchase wire in 10 to 20 ton lots, for cash, to be used in the making of bed and chair springs. Samples of the wire may be examined at the Bureau or its branch offices. (Refer to file No. 69835.) Correspondence may be in English.

Advertising articles, No. 19601.—A letter from a commercial organization states that a company in Argentina desires to represent an American firm manufacturing advertising articles.

Refrigerating machinery, No. 19602.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a company has been formed for the erection of a cold-storage plant for refrigerating meats and alimentary products. Manufacturers of machinery for such a plant are requested to send catalogues and price lists. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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AMERICAN IMPORTER IN CANTON.

[Vice Consul P. R. Josselyn, Canton, China.]

As indicative of what might be done to increase the sales of American goods, provided they are pushed by an American firm, there is given below a statement of the sales since August 1, 1915, of an American importer who established himself in Canton at that date; the values are in gold: Provisions, \$2,023; tin plate, metal goods, nails, etc., \$8,640; playing cards, \$435; cash registers (2), \$300; surgical instruments, \$190; petrolatum, \$746; carborundum (carbide of silicon), \$1,678; optical goods, \$170; total, \$14,182.

These goods are all American, and while some of the provisions had, previous to the establishment of this firm, found their way on this market through Chinese dealers, yet it is fair to assume that the net gain to American import trade through the establishment of this one firm is considerable.

PROPOSED COINAGE OF SILVER IN URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, Oct. 29.]

The President of Uruguay has recommended to Congress the passage of a bill providing for the coinage of 5,000,000 pesos (\$5,170,000) in silver pieces of one peso (\$1.034) and one-half peso (\$0.517). Old coins of these denominations are to be retired and recoinced. This amount is equivalent to 3.80 pesos (\$3.929) per inhabitant, and it is estimated that it will be sufficient for a number of years. The profits realized from the coinage—should the bill pass—are to be used for the improvement of roads and construction of public buildings.

HARBOR EXTENSION AT MACASSAR, DUTCH EAST INDIES.

[Far Eastern Review, October.]

Shipping and commercial circles in Macassar have received word from the harbor board that the Government has sanctioned the construction of the boat harbor planned some time ago, as well as a northern extension of 1,247 feet to the 2,559 feet long sea wharf now in course of completion for sea-going vessels. As a result of the above, 1916 will see Macassar with the old 1,673-foot pier, the new boat harbor, and a wharf measuring 3,806 feet in length for large vessels.

DOMINICAN TOBACCO CROP FOR 1915.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Plata, Nov. 16.]

As had been anticipated, the tobacco crop for 1915 was small, amounting to 60,000 to 70,000 seroons (6,900,000 to 8,050,000 pounds), having a net weight of about 115 pounds each, against a yield of 150,000 to 200,000 seroons (17,250,000 to 23,000,000 pounds) in normal years. The farmers received from \$2 to \$2.50 per seroon, but the price during the last few months has steadily risen, and recent purchases by foreign buyers have been as high as \$4 to \$4.50. Lack of transportation facilities has increased the difficulty of marketing the tobacco crop. Much of the 1914 crop and the greater part of this year's still remain in the country. Before the outbreak of the European war the crop was shipped direct to German ports. This market being closed, considerable amounts have been sent to the Netherlands, and a number of shipments have been made to New York in transit to other European countries.

While it is too early to make any accurate forecast concerning next year's yield, it is known that planting has been heavy. Should favorable weather conditions continue during the next few months, the 1916 crop should be a large one, perhaps as much as 200,000 seroons (23,000,000 pounds).

[A full report on Dominican tobacco was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 10, 1915.]

NEW SOUTH WALES TRADE COMMISSIONER.

Three official documents of the Government of New South Wales, Australia, have been received from the American commercial attaché, William C. Downs, at Melbourne. These are: "Consolidated revenue fund," estimate of expenditure for 1915-16; "Public works fund," estimate of expenditure for 1915-16; "Closer settlement fund," estimate of expenditure for 1915-16. Under the consolidated revenue fund is an item of special interest to the United States. This is the amount of £6,250 (\$30,416) for expenses of representation of the Government of New South Wales on the west coast of the United States and Canada. This is for the maintenance of the trade commissioner's office in San Francisco and for occasional visits to Vancouver. This allowance is to cover the representation of a single State of the Commonwealth of Australia in one State of the United States.

Copies of these three documents may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 966.

RUBBER EXPORTS FROM STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[London and China Telegraph, Nov. 20.]

Exports of Pará rubber from January 1 to September 30, 1915 (excluding all foreign transshipments) were as follows: From Singapore, 59,539,158 pounds, against 28,968,720 pounds in the corresponding period of 1914; from Malacca, 6,159,464 pounds, against 3,579,164 pounds; from Penang, 21,338,264 pounds, against 15,948,133 pounds; from Port Swettenham (Oct. 21), 24,988,802 pounds, against 24,840,136 pounds in the corresponding period of 1914.

REPORT ON COTTON GINNING.

According to a preliminary report prepared by the United States Bureau of Census, the number of bales (counting round as half bales and excluding linters) of cotton ginned from the growth of 1915 prior to December 13, 1915, and comparative statistics to the corresponding date in 1914 and 1913, crops of 1914 and 1913, and the per cent of the crop of each year ginned prior to December 13 follow:

State.	Ginned prior to Dec. 13.			Crop.		Per cent of crop ginned prior to Dec. 13.	
	1915	1914	1913	1914	1913	1914	1913
United States.....	10,303,253	13,972,229	12,927,428	15,605,840	13,982,311	87.8	92.5
Alabama.....	987,482	1,573,140	1,444,212	1,731,751	1,483,669	90.8	97.3
Arkansas.....	721,540	893,965	885,979	999,237	1,038,293	89.5	85.3
Florida.....	53,350	80,909	63,082	90,643	66,700	89.3	94.6
Georgia.....	1,860,929	2,451,644	2,215,306	2,723,094	2,346,237	90.0	94.4
Louisiana.....	328,190	415,278	391,454	452,261	439,865	91.8	89.6
Mississippi.....	683,982	1,082,816	1,084,680	1,217,883	1,251,841	88.9	86.6
North Carolina.....	667,113	766,445	708,598	970,479	837,995	79.0	84.6
Oklahoma.....	511,580	1,069,018	789,782	1,232,638	842,499	86.7	93.7
South Carolina.....	1,098,226	1,328,482	1,276,428	1,560,195	1,418,704	85.1	90.0
Tennessee.....	265,120	319,284	340,685	372,068	266,786	85.8	92.9
Texas.....	2,867,699	3,874,388	3,627,190	4,390,200	3,773,024	88.3	96.1
All other.....	78,032	116,860	100,030	163,386	120,198	70.7	83.2

The statistics in this report include 100,940 round bales for 1915; 42,796 bales for 1914; and 91,686 for 1913. The number of sea-island bales included is 83,810 for 1915; 71,401 for 1914; and 69,520 for 1913. The distribution of the sea-island cotton for 1915, by States, is: Florida, 26,719; Georgia, 52,908; and South Carolina, 4,183.

The statistics of this report for 1915 are subject to slight corrections when checked against the individual returns of the ginnerers being transmitted by mail. The corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to December 1 are 9,705,877 bales.

Cotton consumed during the month of November, 1915, amounted to 514,534 bales. Cotton on hand in consuming establishments on November 30 was 1,613,110 bales, and in public storage and at compresses 4,982,472 bales. The number of active consuming cotton spindles for the month was 31,497,435. Domestic cotton exported during November, 1915, was 527,625 running bales, and foreign cotton imported, 21,169 equivalent 500-pound bales.

GOVERNMENT AID TO SILK CULTURE IN COLOMBIA.

[Diario Oficial, Oct. 8.]

An appropriation of \$10,000 annually has just been made by the Government of Colombia for the encouragement of silk culture in that country. The money is to be distributed among the various departments, where it will be used in establishing and maintaining schools of sericulture, in planting and cultivating mulberry trees, in raising silkworms, and in prizes for the best results from silk growers. Experiments are to be made with native plants to ascertain whether they can be used in place of mulberry trees for the worms. A part of the appropriation is to be used, also, in the purchase of silk-spinning machinery, which is to be exempt from import duty for 10 years. Manufacturing efforts will be limited to the spinning of the cocoons and preparing the silk for exportation as raw material.

DECREASE IN DEATH RATE OF UNITED STATES.

A preliminary statement just made public by the United States Bureau of the Census shows a death rate of 13.6—the lowest on record—per 1,000 estimated population of the registration area of the United States in 1914.

Unfortunately the mortality statistics do not cover the entire United States, since not all communities have adequate death-registration systems. Those States and cities in which the registration of deaths is approximately complete constitute what is known as the registration area. This area comprises 25 States (in one of which, North Carolina, registration is restricted to municipalities which had 1,000 population or over in 1900), the District of Columbia, and 32 cities in nonregistration States, and contained two-thirds (66.8 per cent) of the total estimated population of the United States in 1914. This represents a very gratifying increase as compared with 1900, when the registration area contained only about two-fifths (40.5 per cent) of the total population of the country. Figures for Kansas are included for the first time in the statistics for 1914.

There is a widespread and increasing interest throughout the country, especially in the South, in respect to vital statistics. The "model law" for the registration of births and deaths was put into operation in South Carolina on January 1, 1915, and during the present year this law was enacted in the States of Florida and Illinois. The Bureau of the Census is actively cooperating with officials in other States in order that the entire country may be included at the earliest possible date in the registration area for deaths.

The death rate for 1914 is 16 per cent lower than the average for the five-year period 1901-1905. When due allowance is made for the addition of many new States to the registration area between 1905 and 1914, and the comparison is confined to the registration States as they existed during the period 1901-1905, there still is shown a decided decrease, amounting to 9.4 per cent.

Among the States for which death rates for 1901-1905 are given, the greatest proportional decrease between that period and 1914 is shown for Rhode Island—17.4 per cent. Next in order are New York, with a decrease of 14 per cent; New Jersey, 11.8 per cent; Massachusetts, 11.4 per cent; Vermont, 7.4 per cent; Connecticut, 3.8 per cent; Indiana, 2.3 per cent; Maine, 1.9 per cent; New Hampshire, 1.8 per cent. Michigan alone showed a slight increase—eight-tenths of 1 per cent.

Among the cities of 100,000 or over the tendency is toward a still greater reduction in mortality. The following cities show a decrease of 20 per cent or more from the five-year period 1901-1905 to 1914: Jersey City, 28.5 per cent; New York City, 25.8 per cent; San Francisco, 23.6 per cent; Denver, 23.3 per cent; Newark, N. J., 22.5 per cent; Pittsburgh, 21.9 per cent; Atlanta, 21.8 per cent; Los Angeles, 21.3 per cent; Lowell, Mass., 21.3 per cent; and Paterson, N. J., 20.1 per cent.

The American commercial attaché at The Hague, Erwin W. Thompson, reports that a bill is said to be in course of preparation for the next Norwegian Parliament for organizing a Department of Commerce. Heretofore there has been no special department for industrial affairs.

THE COCOON CROP OF FRANCE.

[Vice Consul John J. Ernster, Lyon, Nov. 15.]

The 1914 crop of cocoons in France was nearly 15 per cent larger than that of 1913, according to figures just published by the Ministry of Agriculture, but fell 26 per cent below the average for the preceding decade. The official statistics by Departments are:

Departments.	No. of silk growers.	Ounces of eggs produced.	Pounds of fresh cocoons produced.	Departments.	No. of silk growers.	Ounces of eggs produced.	Pounds of fresh cocoons produced.
Ain.....	178	295	13,650	Tarn.....	71	55	4,190
Alpes (Basses).....	2,292	2,014	226,280	Tarn-et-Garonne.....	12	11	440
Alpes (Maritimes).....	160	191	22,230	Var.....	5,853	5,587	612,140
Alpes (Hautes).....	433	314	41,940	Vaucluse.....	9,992	9,985	984,140
Ardèche.....	17,510	29,540	3,120,510				
Aude.....	1	7	910	Total, 1914.....	83,825	108,943	11,169,400
Aveyron.....	21	33	2,400	1913.....	90,517	126,078	9,730,700
Bouches-du-Rhône.....	2,793	2,879	278,130	1912.....	99,390	132,534	13,812,710
Corse.....	691	1,026	102,360	1911.....	102,605	141,724	11,240,740
Drôme.....	18,271	19,277	2,054,270	1910.....	114,283	178,719	9,333,350
Gard.....	17,853	30,271	2,952,260	1909.....	119,067	183,181	18,802,390
Hérault.....	1,007	1,409	137,430	1908.....	123,804	187,073	18,500,460
Isère.....	4,586	3,472	389,580	1907.....	124,643	188,360	18,471,640
Loire.....	23	19	1,610	1906.....	122,045	178,003	16,545,050
Lozère.....	1,583	2,178	173,190	1905.....	173,761	189,279	17,620,680
Pyrénées-Orientales.....	143	159	25,520	1904.....	125,244	183,443	17,267,070
Rhône.....	4	6	20	Ten-year average.....	114,532	168,989	15,137,777
Savoie.....	348	215	25,940				

Returns for 1915 indicate a crop of but 3,808,820 pounds, distributed among the various Departments as follows: Ain, 5,770; Basses-Alpes, 91,180; Hautes-Alpes, 21,510; Maritimes-Alpes, 12,780; Ardèche, 1,168,770; Aude, 760; Aveyron, 680; Bouches-du-Rhône, 64,000; Corse, 59,850; Drôme, 332,300; Gard, 1,229,710; Hérault, 79,030; Isère, 64,640; Loire, 230; Lozère, 95,310; Pyrénées-Orientales, 14,570; Rhône, nil; Savoie, 6,660; Tarn, 920; Tarn-et-Garonne, 280; Var, 330,970; and Vaucluse, 228,900 pounds.

RECORD CATCH OF COD ON NEWFOUNDLAND BANKS.

[Consul John J. C. Watson, St. Pierre, Miquelon, Dec. 7.]

The fishing season of 1915, which ended last month, was remarkable for the fact that in proportion to the number of vessels employed the catch was the greatest ever made by the French fleet on the Newfoundland Banks. The fleet, numbering 11 steam trawlers and 25 sailing vessels, caught 192,119 quintals, or 23,294,428 pounds, of cod. An idea of the increased catch per vessel is shown by a comparison with the 1914 season, when the catch was 182,639 quintals, which is equal to 22,144,978 pounds, and the fleet numbered 22 steam trawlers and 251 sailing vessels. The cod were so plentiful that the owners of the trawlers decided to continue fishing during the winter, which had never been done before. Orders were received from the French Government the latter part of November for the trawlers to return to France, so they had to abandon this plan. It is thought here that a larger fleet of trawlers will be sent out from France next season.

Fishing with steam trawlers on the Newfoundland Banks has proved profitable, especially so this season, when cod brought higher prices, owing to the scarcity of seamen. It would seem to be well worth while, therefore, for American shipowners to enter this field next spring. The average price for green cod this season was 6.1 cents per pound.

SHODDY INDUSTRY IN UNITED KINGDOM.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Clalborne, Bradford, England, Oct. 28.]

The manufacture of shoddy is assuming an increasing importance in the west of Yorkshire. The townships of Dewsbury, Batley, and the adjacent textile communities are devoted almost exclusively to this industry. Rags of every description and size are reduced again to fiber and respun into excellent yarn for weaving. Often fibers too short to be spun alone are strengthened with an admixture of new wool to obtain the necessary weaving qualities. There is no unused residual, even the unwoven ends, fine as dust, being consolidated by the cohesive power of oil and, commercially known as flocks, are employed for stuffing upholstery and mattresses.

The Yorkshire spinner is said to be able to spin anything that has two ends, and with the advent of scientific processes and improved machinery, it seems likely that this contention is justified.

The Yorkshire rag market is in many aspects one of the most interesting phases of the textile industry. Rags of all fibers, colors, and sizes are assembled from nearly every nation of the world, thoroughly cleansed, reduced to fiber, and alone or with an intermixture of new yarn, made into excellent clothing material, blankets, rugs, and a variety of other articles. Such cloths return again and again as rags to be remade into new fabrics.

Shoddy and Mungo Distinguished—Kinds of Rags.

An interesting article on the manufacture of rag wool appeared in the Yorkshire Observer for October 28, 1915, which may be summarized as follows:

Shoddy and mungo, as the two chief products of rags are called, differ chiefly in length of staple. Shoddy is pulled from longer and coarser wools, while mungo comes from finer and harder-spun fabrics that naturally have a shorter fiber length. Fabrics made exclusively from shoddy or mungo are readily detected by their lack of strength when torn and by the shortness of the wool, but in mixtures of new wool and remanufactured stuff the blend is recognized only by an expert. Some of the best woolens, notably the vicunas, are improved by the addition of a little mungo. Dyeing and carbonizing dispose of any germs that the rags may have harbored.

Passing from the marine-store dealer, who is the first handler of rags in quantity, they are sorted by the manufacturer of rag wool into the following classes: Merinos (very fine wool dress goods), skirtings, flannels, heavy cloth, serge, linsey (other materials), tailors' new clippings, cotton (linings, etc.), and rubbish (textiles not fit for pulling). These kinds of rags are then sorted into minor classes. As light-colored rags fetch a higher price than dark ones, owing to the ease with which they take other colors, cloths of all kinds are graded into different shades. Cheviots are sorted into gray, drab, brown, and black, while fine cloth is divided into drab, blue, green, scarlet, and black. Flannels are sorted for quality into fine, medium, and coarse, and for colors into red, white, and dirty white. In some cases the dirty whites are washed, whereby they lose considerably in weight but fetch higher prices. Stockings are classified as all-wool, wool, and cotton (angola), and felt stockings and slippers. The all-

wool stockings are fine, medium, or coarse and gray, black, or brown; the angolas are picked out for carbonizing.

Extract Merino—Removal of Cotton—Making Rag Wool.

After being carbonized the rags are dyed, mixed with a proportion of wool to match, and scribbled. At this stage the mixture resembles carded wool, and forms the material known as "extract merino," which is in extensive demand in Russia and Germany for the face weft of president cloths. In the United Kingdom the material enters into the composition of fancy tweeds, flannels, etc., and by reason of its fine quality and excellent spinning properties it makes handsome fabrics. Wool rags of good quality that do not require carbonizing have all the cotton carefully picked out of the seams and are brushed or scraped if they show dirt. Linsey cloth is rags of wool containing some cotton and carbonizing is necessary to obtain really clean wool, which is not injured if the dry-gas process is used. Loss of weight, however, may vary from 5 to 60 per cent, according to the amount of cotton present.

Such rags as require neither carbonizing nor dyeing are blended for conversion into rag wool. When rags of a specified price and color have been obtained they are spread on the floor in a stack, the different layers of which (about 8 inches thick) are softened with boiling water, followed by almost boiling oil. The stack is allowed to stand some little time (about 24 hours), when it heats up and steams and the whole pile is softened with oil and water vapor. The rags are then placed singly on the lattice that feeds the rag machine. They pass between rollers that present them to the teeth of a large, rapidly revolving cylinder called the swift. The teeth fray off the fiber while the rag is still held by the rollers. When pulling hard-felted cloths to make mungo the swift runs at the rate of 700 to 800 revolutions per minute, the feed rollers moving slowly about one-fourth of 1 inch from the swift. For shoddy pulling the teeth of the swift are set coarser than for mungo and the swift revolves at about half the speed.

Willy and Carding Engine—Utilization of Rubbish.

The fibers of the rags are not opened out sufficiently after being torn up by the rag machine. To complete the process the long, thready material is passed first through a willy and then through a carding engine. The willy has a spiked cylinder, with teeth traveling at 900 feet per second, and tears and opens out the material presented to it by a pair of toothed nippers. If the fragments are not small enough, they are caught by a series of spiked rollers and returned again to the feed board. On leaving the willy the material is in the form of short threads, which, for conversion into shoddy or mungo, must be passed through a carding engine. The swifts of this machine are covered with fine card wire. The teeth in the willy run about 4 to the square inch, while in the carder they run about 300 to 400 to the square inch. A large carding engine is worth about \$2,500.

The fine short fibers from rag pulling that are not long enough to spin into a thread are curled up into balls for the flocks used in cheap upholstery. The machine for this purpose consists of a cylinder of concentric wire grates, which by revolving rolls the flocks into tiny balls, while a fan at the top draws away the dust. The best flocks

are scoured and of a light shade. The medium qualities are supposed to be washed and disinfected, but the lowest grade are practically similar to the rags from which they came, except that they contain less dust.

Old and New Methods of Carbonizing.

The old wet process of carbonizing is still followed to some extent. It consists in steeping the rags in a reservoir of dilute sulphuric acid until thoroughly impregnated, then removing superfluous acid and spreading out the rags in a drying room heated by a current of hot air. As the rags dry the acid in them becomes more concentrated and begins to attack the cotton, and when perfectly dry (which is highly essential) the cotton will be found crisp and friable and readily beaten out in the form of dust. This system undoubtedly weakens the wool fibers, but it also gets rid of any silk that may be present, which is not touched by the dry gas process.

The machine for dry carbonizing consists of a revolving cylinder 5 feet in diameter and 14 feet long, housed in a chamber heated to over 220° F. by means of furnace gases passing from the retort in which the acid is vaporized. This cylinder revolves about twice per minute and holds about 5 hundredweight of rags for one charge. The hydrochloric-acid gas fumes are produced by allowing hydrochloric acid to drip into a red-hot iron retort, which converts it into the dry gas. This gas passes through the hollow shaft of the rag cylinder into the cylinder itself and among the rags as they are kept tumbling about inside. The gaseous fumes enter the machine for about two hours until the rags are thoroughly permeated, after which another hour's running is allowed to give the gas further time to act upon the cotton. After the rags have been taken out and cooled they are shaken vigorously in a cylindrical cage somewhat similar to a flock-curling machine, and the cotton fibers, made brittle by the gas, fall away in the form of dust.

Dyeing Methods—Production and Exports of Rag Wool.

The old system of rag dyeing, which is still extensively followed, was to boil the rags in large circular wood vats, holding about a ton of rags at a time, and having a perforated false bottom below which was the open steam pipe for boiling. In this primitive style the circulation of the dye liquor among the rags was kept up by stirring and lifting up the rags from the bottom by means of a long pole. The improved dyeing apparatus comprises three wooden vats, two raised upon a wooden platform in which the dyeing is done and one underneath, between the two, serving as a reservoir for the dye. From this central tank the liquor is raised by a circulating pump and the pipe is fitted with a swiveled curved end, so that it can readily be turned from one tank to the other. While dyeing is taking place in one tank the other is being charged with rags. The liquor is in continuous circulation through the dye vessels, each of which is furnished with valves and delivery cocks so that the rags can be rinsed in the tank in which they are dyed. Drying the rags after dyeing is done in a revolving cage similar to the one used for carbonizing.

Carbonized rags take up dyes very quickly, and if blended with uncarbonized material will come out a darker shade from the same bath, but grinding and carding pull the whole blend up to one shade.

It is conservatively estimated that over 120,000,000 pounds of rag wool are pulled in this country (the United Kingdom), of which 25,000,000 pounds are exported to Austria, Russia, Germany, the United States, Sweden, Norway, and Canada.

EXPORTS OF SHODDY AND MUNGO.

The following table shows the exports of shoddy and mungo from the United Kingdom to the principal countries of destination during the last five years:

Countries.	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Germany	3,702,300	3,024,200	2,913,200	2,678,300	1,984,300
Portugal	1,259,000	1,231,700	1,189,100	1,264,000	1,171,200
Russia	865,400	1,008,600	1,301,000	1,594,600	1,048,700
Sweden	1,413,900	1,533,700	1,909,300	2,025,200	962,000
Denmark (including Faroe Islands).....	851,800	862,000	1,058,100	1,130,300	618,000
Norway	961,200	801,100	902,700	1,035,100	586,100
Netherlands	631,200	637,200	809,500	938,300	519,400
France	702,900	494,600	572,700	770,200	874,800
Belgium	466,200	337,600	476,200	660,400	370,000
Canada	390,200	359,400	386,500	383,000	140,500
Other countries.....	712,500	1,079,900	1,923,500	897,000	883,900
Total	11,966,600	11,420,900	13,442,500	13,456,400	8,667,900

The shoddy and mungo exports from the United Kingdom during the first ten months of 1915 amounted to 3,575,400 pounds, as compared with 8,601,800 pounds during the corresponding period of 1914 and 11,681,500 pounds during the first ten months of 1913.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	.....do....	Do.
Peck, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Com- merce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argen- tina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(e)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washing- ton, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

CROP RETURNS AND CONDITIONS IN CANADA.

[Consul General Frederick M. Ryder, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Nov. 23.]

The following returns are taken from a report just issued from the Canadian Census and Statistics Office, giving quality, price, and acreage of the root and fodder crops in the Dominion for 1915, the acreage and condition (on Oct. 31) of fall wheat sown for 1916, and the progress of fall plowing.

Root and fodder crops, consisting of potatoes, turnips, mangolds, etc., hay and clover, alfalfa, fodder corn, and sugar beets, occupied this year a total area of about 8,977,000 acres, as compared with 9,067,000 acres in 1914. Their estimated value (subject to revision) was \$230,379,000, as compared with \$226,227,000 last year. The decrease in area was principally in respect to hay and clover, and the increase in total value was due to the larger yield of the same crops. Hay and clover yielded 10,953,000 tons from 7,875,000 acres, or 1.39 tons per acre, as compared with 10,259,000 tons from 7,997,000 acres, or 1.28 tons per acre, last year. The yield of alfalfa was 261,955 tons from 92,665 acres, or 2.83 tons per acre; of fodder corn, 3,429,800 tons from 343,400 acres, or 10 tons per acre; and of turnips and other roots, 64,281,000 bushels from 172,700 acres, or 372 bushels per acre.

Potato Crop.

The conditions governing the production of potatoes this year were as bad as they were good last year. The total estimated yield was 62,604,000 bushels from 478,600 acres, an average yield per acre of only 131 bushels. Last year the corresponding figures were 85,672,000 bushels, 475,900 acres, and 180 bushels. Not since the average of 119 bushels in 1910 had the rate per acre been so low; it was 27 bushels below the average of 158 bushels for the five years 1910-1914. In Ontario, where the record yield of over 167 bushels per acre was obtained last year, the average yield per acre this year was not more than 92.6 bushels, the lowest yield on record for the Province. In other Provinces the potato yield was also poor, except in Alberta and British Columbia. In the former Province the total yield was 5,155,000 bushels from 27,300 acres, an average of 188.8 bushels per acre; and in the latter the yield was 3,956,000 bushels from 16,000 acres, an average of 247 bushels. In both Provinces the yield per acre was larger than in any other year since 1911, when the respective yields were 211.6 and 252 bushels. For all Canada the quality was 84 per cent of the standard, as compared with 90 per cent last year; but in Ontario the quality was down to 66 per cent, as compared with 101 per cent last year. In Prince Edward Island the quality was 81, in Nova Scotia 76, and in New Brunswick 88 per cent. In Alberta the quality was good with 91 per cent and in British Columbia it was 84 per cent. The average price per bushel to the grower worked out to 57 cents for Canada, 76 cents for Ontario, and 33 cents for Alberta. Potatoes are generally reported as affected with rot and blight, especially in Ontario, and the indications are that the keeping qualities this year will be poor.

Acreage of Fall Wheat—Fall Plowing.

The area sown to fall wheat for next year's harvest is estimated at 1,100,800 acres, as compared with 1,294,000 acres sown in 1914. The decrease is principally in Ontario, and is due to the heavy rains of

August, which prevented the working of the soil in time for seeding. The area sown to fall wheat in Ontario is estimated at 820,600 acres, as compared with 1,043,000 acres sown in 1914. In Alberta there is an increase from 230,000 acres in 1914 to 260,500 acres in 1915. In Manitoba there is a decrease from 10,900 to 9,400 acres; in Saskatchewan there is no change from the estimated area of 4,100 acres; and in British Columbia there is a small increase of 200 acres, making 6,200 acres sown to this crop. As regards condition on October 31, the figures are 88 or 89 per cent of the standard for Canada and for Ontario and Alberta. In Manitoba the condition is 69, in Saskatchewan 93, and in British Columbia 95 per cent. For Ontario and Alberta the percentage showing the condition of the crop is smaller than in either of the two preceding years, when the condition on October 31 was rated at over 90 per cent of the standard.

For all Canada about 53 per cent of the area intended for next year's crops is reported as plowed by October 31, as compared with 71 per cent last year and 54 per cent in 1913. In the northwest the percentages are as follows: Manitoba, 36 against 92; Saskatchewan, 27 against 77; Alberta, 34 against 56.

SHORTAGE OF MATCHES REPORTED IN FRANCE.

[Office of Commercial Attaché, Paris, Nov. 13.]

A discussion in *Le Temps*, in which the difficulty of maintaining a supply of matches in France is taken up, is of interest to American manufacturers. The conditions described suggest the possibility of increasing the exportation of matches from the United States to France. The newspaper says in part:

For several months the Government has been selling to our taxpayers some matches of American manufacture which have given full satisfaction to the public—excellent matches with long stems, and matches that lighted surely and without difficulty. Also, some American matches that had shorter stems and black heads were placed on sale. But now both of these kinds have become exhausted, and little by little we have had to return to the matches of former times, which gave but poor satisfaction and of which it has been said that they would light only in the inspiration of poets and musicians.

Mr. Ricaud, director general of the French State factories, said: "We find ourselves in a most precarious situation as to the manufacture of matches. We continue to make them as best we are able. It is true that this home manufacture has been largely reduced from that of normal times, but it has not been wholly interrupted. It is the matchwood that we mostly lack. So far, we have hardly been able to respond to half of the needs of the country, and we have looked to several foreign countries, particularly the United States, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Indo-China, and even Japan."

AUSTRALIAN DEMAND FOR AMERICAN GLASS GROWS.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Nov. 8.]

American manufacturers of plate, sheet, and wired glass have entered this market since the outbreak of war and are doing considerable business. The glass has proved very satisfactory, some qualities being pronounced better than the glass manufactured in Europe. The only complaints made are those concerning defective packing, as mentioned in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for December 11, 1915.

DAIREN SOYA-BEAN MARKET BECOMES ANIMATED.

[Consul A. A. Williamson, Dairen, Manchuria, Oct. 29.]

The local market for soya beans and products has become somewhat animated, after a long period of stagnation on account of the European war, and the consequent lack of shipping facilities to Europe, the dullness of the manure market in Japan, and other influences, among which high freights may be reckoned. New beans are now coming down to Dairen in small quantities, but the real out-flow will not begin until the advent of winter causes the roads in the interior to freeze.

The direct cause of the present animation is the arrival of orders for a large quantity of bean cake from Formosa, for the sugar plantations there. On the 23d, 17,000 pieces were bought at \$0.57 each, while on the following Monday 38,000 cakes were bought at an advance to \$0.59 each.

According to the wharf-office statistics, Formosa took 1,521,000 pieces last year, or 46,115 tons. Four years ago a trial was made with bean-cake fertilizer, when 600,000 cakes were bought. Since then the demand has grown to two and a half times that amount. The heaviest buying for this market is done in November and December; that bought later is generally only to supply deficiencies. Last season's purchases were shipped to Keelung and Takao, the latter taking slightly more than the former, but not all of this goes directly from Dairen, a portion being transshipped in Japan.

Estimate of Winter's Purchases for Formosan Market.

It is estimated that this winter's purchases for the Formosan market will reach 2,000,000 pieces, as the sugar business is prospering, and it is said that Java sugar will have to pay a new tax, which will give Formosan sugar just so much more advantage in Japanese markets. This condition of affairs is in marked contrast to that in Japan, where the big crop of rice has caused so much loss through the resulting fall in prices.

Last week the buying of bean oil for the United States began suddenly, on the arrival of a ship for New York. This ship will go via Suez. This commodity has kept up in price fairly well, the greatest difficulty being to get hold space for it. The demand from the United States is expected to keep up fairly well, the oil being used, local exporters understand, as a substitute for cottonseed oil. It often goes indirectly, via Japanese ports.

The South Manchuria Railway has slightly altered its schedules, allowing for more freight trains, in anticipation of a busy season. It has also overhauled its yards, so that freight may be better handled and stored. Reclamation work is now going on that will allow additional go-downs to be erected, and several new shifting engines are being built at the company's Shahokou works. All this preparation is the result of last winter's experience, when the congestion was so great that goods were stored over 2½ miles of land. At one time there were 311,710 tons of beans, cake, kaoliang, etc., stored in the open, for the most part, and covered with tarpaulins or in osier bins. The extra large crop—some 20 to 30 per cent larger than the average—and the state of the Russian railway between Harbin and Vladivostok, together with a severe winter, when work on the wharves was

frequently impossible, accounted for last year's congestion. This year the crops are not so large, but the company is determined not to be caught again.

MUTUAL-BENEFIT INSURANCE IN ITALIAN SCHOOLS.

[Consul William F. Kelley, Rome, Nov. 15.]

In many of the elementary schools of Rome, and of some other cities in Italy, a system of mutual-benefit insurance has been established among the pupils. The underlying idea is that the pupils forming the society shall pay small weekly contributions to the general fund and in return shall receive certain payments in case of sickness, accident, or death, and at the same time lay the foundation for old-age benefits. While the plan is still in its infancy, so far as Rome is concerned, it has been adopted in many of the public schools of the city, and this system of insurance appears to be growing rapidly.

It is intended to encourage the pupils to continue the insurance even after they leave school, and until they have reached the age when they may join an adult society. In addition to the immediate economic benefit that a pupil derives in case of sickness or accident, the habit of providence is developed in the child during his most impressionable years, and the parents, who in reality pay the premiums, have their attention called regularly to the question of provision for the future.

This plan was so favorably received by the Italian Government that a law has been passed authorizing the establishment of the system in the State schools and subjecting the management to State supervision. The working of the law is extremely simple. It permits the societies for mutual aid, constituted among the pupils and ex-pupils of elementary and private schools, to request the recognition of the State, provided that among the aims of the society is that of assuring an old-age pension through the National Providential Funds for Sickness and Old Age (*Cassa Nazionale di Previdenza per l'Invalidità e la Vecchiaia*).

Members of Societies Recorded in Special List.

This national institute is authorized by the law to enter the names of the members of the societies in a special list, together with the amount of their payments and their proportional share of the accumulations of the society. The age limit for pupils, members of these societies, is from six to twelve years. After the age of twelve the pupils who have conformed to the regulations governing the funds may be transferred to the workmen's lists of the national fund, while those who have not the qualifications for the workmen's lists are inscribed in the National Popular Pension Insurance.

No figures are available showing the actual amount of the insurance of this class in Rome or in Italy, but recent reports state that the system is spreading rapidly, and that it is in operation in the majority of the public schools in this city. It is also reported that the pupils themselves are showing great interest in the movement, and it is hoped that the small State subvention which is at present given by the Italian Government (a maximum of \$10,000 per annum for all Italy) will prove to be a valuable educational measure and an incentive to further effort by the children.

ESTIMATES OF TIMBER AREAS IN PROVINCES OF CANADA.

[Consul Henry S. Culver, St. John, N. B., Nov. 26.]

According to estimates made by the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior, the total area of land covered by timber in Canada is between 500,000,000 and 600,000,000 acres, of which 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 acres are covered by timber of commercial size.

Distributed by Provinces, the estimated acreages of commercial timber are: Nova Scotia, 5,000,000; New Brunswick, 9,000,000; Quebec, 100,000,000; Ontario, 70,000,000; Northwest Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta), 11,000,000; British Columbia, 30,000,000. These figures make an aggregate of 225,000,000 acres for the Dominion of Canada.

The principal forest trees, in the order of their commercial importance, in Canada are: Ontario and Quebec—White spruce, white pine, balsam fir, hemlock, birch, red pine, cedar, tamarack, maple, basswood, jack pine, elm, ash, oak, poplar and beech; Northwest Provinces and Rocky Mountains—White spruce, aspen, balsam poplar, jack pine, black spruce, tamarack, white birch, lodgepole pine, alpine fir, and alpine larch; British Columbia—Douglas fir, western cedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce, Engelman spruce, alpine fir, bull pine, western larch, and lodgepole pine.

Estimated Values of Canadian Forest Products.

The values of the various classes of timber produced by the Provinces of Canada in 1914, with the total value of forest products, for the Dominion are:

Variety of timber.	Value.	Variety of timber.	Value.
Lumber, lath, and shingles.....	\$67,500,000	Logs exported.....	\$850,000
Firewood.....	60,500,000	Tanning material.....	22,000
Pulpwood.....	15,500,000	Round mining timbers.....	500,000
Posts and rails.....	9,500,000	Miscellaneous exports.....	300,000
Crossties.....	9,000,000	Miscellaneous products.....	10,000,000
Square timber exported.....	400,000		
Cooperage.....	1,500,000	Total.....	176,672,000
Poles.....	700,000		

Spruce is the most important wood in Canada for the production of lumber and pulp. Maple is used for firewood, as well as for furniture, cars, agricultural implements, hardwood flooring, and distillation. Cedar is the most important wood in Canada for poles, fence posts and rails, railway sleepers, and shingles. White pine and Douglas fir are important lumber species. Beech, poplar, and jack pine are used in largest quantities for firewood. Red pine, hemlock, and tamarack are lumber woods of less importance. Balsam fir is an important pulp wood. Yellow pine grows in the interior of British Columbia, and covers a large area in the dry belt. Elm is an important cooperage wood, together with oak, ash, and basswood.

Results of Foreign-Trade Opportunities.

The American consulate at Lisbon, Portugal, reports that as a result of Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 14954, which was published in COMMERCE REPORTS December 28, 1914, the firm has advised that an additional order has been placed for boot and shoe leather amounting to \$90,000. The firm further states that it has recently purchased \$20,000 worth of chemical products in the United States.

LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEES COMMENDED BY SECRETARY.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield, during the past week, commended several employees of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses for assistance rendered to vessels that were in distress. The persons commended and the special acts recognized were:

Levi B. Clark, keeper of Cuttyhunk Light Station, Mass., for assistance rendered the schooner *Childe Harold*, of New Haven, Conn., which was aground on Sow and Pigs Reef, Mass.

William J. Tate, keeper of North Landing River, etc., Lights, N. C., for assistance rendered the tugboat *Adelaide*, which grounded near Long Point, N. C.

Hans P. Score, keeper of Slip Point Light Station, Wash., for assistance rendered by him to the launch *Bunch*, which had broken down in the vicinity of Slip Point Light Station.

William G. Rollinson, keeper of Hatteras Inlet Light Station, N. C., for assistance rendered to two fishing boats which were in distress in the vicinity of Hatteras Inlet Light Station.

Frank G. Sommer and Archie Hetu, keeper and first assistant keeper of Detour Light Station, Mich., for assistance rendered the tug *Gazzelle*, which was in distress off Detour Light Station.

NOTES FROM CHILE.

[Diario Oficial, Nov. 4.]

Plans for Modernization of Santiago—Concession to Goat Farm.

A commission has been named to make an exhaustive study of plans for the modernization of Santiago, with ample provision for the future growth of the city. This commission, which includes the mayor and other municipal officials of Santiago, will submit detailed plans to the Government for adoption.

The Government has granted the use of a tract of land for five years for the raising of breeds of goats not now known in this country.

[South American Journal, Nov. 27.]

Fuel Oil for Locomotives—Good Crop Prospects.

The railways in the north of Chile have been ordered by the Government to make trials of petroleum as fuel on their locomotives.

The wheat crop in the south of Chile promises to be most satisfactory, recent rains having been of great benefit.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

The American commercial attaché at The Hague, Erwin W. Thompson, reports that Dutch consumers of soda recently held a meeting in Amsterdam to consider new sources of supply. Soap and glass factories, which have heretofore imported caustic soda and soda ash principally from Belgium and Germany, now find these sources nearly exhausted. The meeting reported that not more than six weeks' supply was visible. The annual consumption of soda in the Netherlands is about 50,000 tons.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.]

Stencils, No. 19003.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a firm in that country desires to purchase American-made stencils, novelty work, etc. Correspondence may be in English.

Asbestos fabric machinery, No. 19004.—The bureau is informed by an American consular officer in South Africa that a man desires to receive catalogues and full information from American manufacturers of machinery for fiberizing, spinning, and weaving asbestos for fabrics made from this product with a view to installing machinery for the manufacture of such fabric. Correspondence may be in English.

Electrical goods and hardware, No. 19005.—A firm in the United States writes that a firm in Spain desires to obtain exclusive agencies for American electrical goods and hardware. References will be given.

Stump-pulling machinery and gates for pasture fields, No. 19006.—A firm in the United States desires to receive catalogues with prices for export, f. o. b. New York, from American manufacturers of stump-pulling machinery and gates for pasture fields which can be opened from a buggy without alighting.

Zirconium, No. 19007.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Brazil which desires to communicate with firms interested in developing a mine containing approximately 50,000 tons of zirconium. An analysis sent in by the firm may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. Refer to file No. 19007.

Representative for meat packer, No. 19008.—An American consular officer in Denmark reports that a business man in his district desires to represent some large meat packer. Correspondence may be in English.

Electric passenger elevators, electric installations, etc., No. 19009.—A commercial organization in the United States writes that the manager of a large firm in Peru desires to communicate with manufacturers of electric passenger elevators; electric installations for cities; electric material, such as copper wire and insulators for installations. Catalogues, quotations, terms, etc., are desired.

Mill supplies, No. 19010.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a general merchant desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of mill supplies used in cotton, spinning, weaving, and sizing mills.

Slate materials, No. 19011.—A business man in Denmark informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of corresponding with firms operating their own quarries, and which manufacture and sell all grades of slate. Correspondence may be in English.

Whiskies, No. 19012.—An American consular officer reports that a man in Chile wishes to represent, on a commission basis, an exporter of American whiskies, and requests that prices, methods of packing, as well as rate of commission be sent. The inquirer intends to sell to the wholesale trade. Bank references are furnished.

Flour and petroleum, etc., No. 19013.—A report from a commercial agent of the Bureau states that a firm in China desires to communicate with exporters of flour and petroleum, and it also wishes to establish commercial relations with American firms dealing in rice and tin.

Porcelain forms for gloves, etc., No. 19014.—A commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce reports that a manufacturer in Australia desires quotations for porcelain forms used in the manufacture of rubber gloves, and glass forms for nursing-bottle nipples. The sizes of gloves manufactured are 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, and 8½. The same manufacturer desires quotations on glass tubing 1½ inches to 1¾ inches outside diameter, in 4-foot lengths. Terms, cash against documents at port of destination.

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FRENCH TRADE FOR ELEVEN MONTHS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, dated Dec. 20.]

The total French foreign trade except gold, silver, etc., for the 11 months ended November, 1915, was valued at \$1,917,030,979, against \$2,045,510,886 in 1914. The imports were \$1,389,853,795, against \$1,157,095,023; and exports \$527,177,184, against \$888,415,863. The imports of food products were valued at \$444,032,398, against \$311,975,043 in the 1914 period; industrial materials \$543,557,287, against \$649,231,542; manufactures, \$402,264,110, against \$195,888,438. The exports of food products were valued at \$94,987,845, against \$111,286,116 for the 1914 period; industrial materials, \$112,905,965, against \$241,706,059; manufactures, \$289,156,460, against \$471,230,151; postal packages, \$30,126,914, against \$64,193,537. The imports in November, 1915, were valued at \$119,283,843, against \$51,488,733 for the same month in 1914; the exports were \$55,093,780, against \$32,728,361.

SUGAR-BEET CROP OF RUSSIA.

[Board of Trade Journal, London, Dec. 2.]

According to the Torgovo Promyshlennaya Gazetta, of November 12, 1915, it is anticipated that this year's sugar-beet crop in Russia will amount to 12,928,200 short tons. Estimating the production of sugar from beet at the average rate of 14 per cent, the amount of sugar that would be extracted from this quantity of beet comes to about 1,785,000 tons. It is estimated that the quantity of sugar left in stock from the previous year's production amounts to 195,900 tons. The total quantity of sugar that will be available for the 12 months from October, 1915, to September, 1916, will therefore aggregate 1,981,000 tons.

VALUE OF PESOS AT BANKS IN HONDURAS.

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, Dec. 3.]

During the month of November, 1915, the banks of the Puerto Cortes district sold the Chilean, Peruvian, Salvadorean, and Honduran pesos of local circulation for 35½ cents gold, and purchased the same coins at 34½ and 35 cents gold.

TRADE STATISTICS FOR ONE WEEK.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending December 18, 1915, at the 13 principal customs districts of the United States, handling 88 per cent of total imports and 93 per cent of total exports, based on transactions in the month of October, 1915, follow:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$73,491	\$420	\$1,835,506
Massachusetts (Boston).....	4,978,284	174,680	1,110,600
New York.....	18,416,835	2,458,760	56,137,073
Philadelphia.....	1,300,632	141,784	2,462,296
Maryland (Baltimore).....	453,178	23,266	4,015,980
Virginia (Norfolk).....	76,218	392,746	1,445,342
New Orleans.....	1,444,879	11,422	5,772,210
Galveston.....	76,702	1,713	3,276,132
San Francisco.....	2,405,682	117,593	1,572,090
Washington (Seattle).....	2,305,371	18,586	1,439,126
Buffalo.....	665,362	15,408	2,076,007
Chicago.....	431,375	131,646	.....
Michigan (Detroit).....	544,536	24,715	3,796,402
Total.....	33,292,345	3,522,739	84,939,437

The cotton exported during the week at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	22,063	Philadelphia.....	.....	San Francisco.....	4,521
Massachusetts.....	2,130	South Carolina.....	.....	Washington.....	4,688
Maryland.....	6,479	Virginia.....	.....	Total.....	141,067
New York.....	6,200	Galveston.....	27,955		
North Carolina.....	.....	New Orleans.....	57,021		

SEA-BORNE TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA.

[Consul General James A. Smith, Calcutta, Nov. 5.]

The trade returns of British India for September, 1915, compared with those for September, 1914, show increases in the values of imports and exports, but a decrease in reexports. The value of imports in September, 1915, was nearly \$42,176,000, an increase of about \$17,844,000 compared with the same month in 1914. The total exports, including reexports and the value of wheat exported on Government account, amounted to \$55,965,000, but excluding reexports to \$54,830,000, an increase of \$30,172,000. Reexports amounted to \$1,135,000, a decrease of nearly \$136,000, as compared with September, 1914.

Imports of treasure increased by \$2,368,000 to \$4,023,000, and exports by \$908,000 to \$1,038,000.

EXPERIMENTS IN COPPER ELECTROTYPING.

At the Cleveland meeting of the Association of Electrotypers a representative of the United States Bureau of Standards described that bureau's work on electrotyping, especially the recent investigation of copper electrotyping. The results obtained aroused considerable interest and were characterized as of great practical value. An appreciation of this work and a desire for its continuance and extension were expressed in a resolution passed by the convention.

FOREIGN COTTON INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIES.

The figures given below, which were obtained from the best sources available, give the condition of the cotton industry in some of the foreign countries at the end of November, 1915, compared with the same month in 1914.

Countries.	Month ended Nov. 30.	Cotton spindles.		Mill consumption of cotton (bales of 50 pounds).	Cotton on hand (bales of 500 pounds).	Cotton goods on hand (value in U. S. currency).
		Number.	Activity (per cent).			
Egypt.....	1914				a 278,000	
	1915				a 354,738	
Japan.....	1914	2,670,382	90	130,972		
	1915	2,787,846	93	152,144		
France.....	1914	7,430,000	70	40,000	b 100,000	
	1915	7,400,000	67	55,000	175,000	
Canada:						
Maritime Provinces.....	1914	62,100	75	1,033	2,095	\$234,310
	1915	62,100	73	1,180	1,060	147,130
Ontario and Quebec c d.....	1914	423,835	54	7,535	11,187	
	1915	526,116	82	9,576	23,708	
South Africa.....	1914					7,000,000
	1915					3,500,000
Spain.....	1914	2,103,786	95	33,022	28,146	
	1915	2,126,352	100	36,173	57,504	

a Cotton stock available for export in November.

b Exclusively Noid.

c For October.

d Total for principal mills.

COFFEE EXPORTS FROM SANTOS.

[Vice Consul W. H. Lawrence, Santos, Brazil, Nov. 20.]

The following table shows the exports of coffee from Santos, Brazil, during October, 1915:

Ports of destination.	Bags.	Ports of destination.	Bags.	Ports of destination.	Bags.
New York.....	683,527	Buenos Aires.....	11,387	Skien.....	250
Havre.....	216,834	Alexandria.....	7,770	Livorno.....	250
New Orleans.....	175,840	Ale and.....	5,030	Lisbon.....	250
Genoa.....	93,747	Batona.....	2,725	Cadiz.....	250
Stockholm.....	83,700	Naples.....	1,722	Valencia.....	125
Copenhagen.....	68,624	Huelva.....	1,159	Punta Arenas.....	100
Amsterdam.....	55,009	Santander.....	1,100	Other ports.....	125
Christiania.....	48,125	Seville.....	1,025	To vessels as ship's stores.....	121
Cotebo g.....	35,250	Stavenger.....	770		
Marseille.....	28,420	Christiansand.....	625		
Malmo.....	27,846	Montevideo.....	543	Total.....	1,624,123
London.....	18,740	Port Said.....	501	To other ports in Brazil.....	1,122
Brethlein.....	12,250	Vigo.....	322		
Bergen.....	11,674	Malaga.....	280	Total.....	1,625,245
Bordeaux.....		Las Palmas.....	275		

NEW JAPANESE WOOD-PULP FACTORY.

[Board of Trade Journal, London, Dec. 2.]

The British commercial attaché at Yokohama reports that a new company, with a capital of 3,000,000 yen (about \$1,494,000), is being organized to manufacture wood pulp in Karafuto (Japanese Saghalien). It is intended to erect a factory capable of turning out 12,000 tons of pulp wood a year. Felling rights over large tracts of forests are said to have been obtained.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENSUS.

According to the annual report of Director Sam. L. Rogers, of the United States Bureau of the Census, to Secretary of Commerce Redfield, covering the fiscal year 1914-15, which has just been made public, the Census Bureau carried on a dozen lines of work during the year and issued 33 reports and bulletins having a total of over 6,600 pages. Until March 15, 1915, the Census Bureau was under the management of Hon. William J. Harris, now a member of the Federal Trade Commission.

The largest single task undertaken by the bureau during the year was the quinquennial census of manufactures, relating to the calendar year 1914. This work required the services of more than 1,300 special agents to collect reports concerning capital invested, persons employed, cost of materials, value of products, character and quantity of power used, and quantity of fuel consumed from every manufacturing establishment in the United States. The canvass, which began in January, 1915, was carried on more rapidly than at any preceding census, and was brought to practical completion early in August. Already more than 200 press summaries have been issued giving preliminary figures for individual cities and States.

An important inquiry completed during the fiscal year was that relating to public and private wealth, public debt, and taxation for the year 1913. The results were published in the form of eight separate bulletins, the contents of which were later bound together in two volumes having a total of over 1,600 pages. The aggregate wealth of the Nation is estimated at nearly \$188,000,000,000.

A 200-page bulletin was issued, in which were brought together the principal census statistics relating to the Negro race. A more carefully prepared and complete report will follow.

New work undertaken during the year includes the collection of financial statistics of States, dealing with revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities, assessed valuations of property, and tax levies; the preparation of a series of life or mortality tables showing for each principal element of the population—male and female, white, negro, urban, rural, etc.—in certain States the death rate and expectation of life at each age; the preparation of a statistical monograph on cancer; and the taking of special censuses of cities and villages at local request and expense.

Important work planned to be begun in the coming year, if the necessary legislative authority is provided, will include inquiries relating to religious bodies, marriage and divorce, transportation by water, and forest products, and the collection of birth statistics. The Census Bureau has a permanent force of approximately 600 officials and employees. The report calls attention to the fact that in no other Federal office of equal or greater size are average salaries for the official and clerical forces so low as in the Census Bureau.

AMERICAN GLASS BOTTLES FOR ENGLAND.

A correspondent of the American commercial attaché in London calls attention to the great scarcity of glass bottles, due to the destruction of the glass-manufacturing centers of France and Belgium, and suggests that American glass manufacturers would find it decidedly worth while to open branches in London.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Lighthouses to the Secretary of Commerce for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, has been published. A review of the work accomplished during the five years since the reorganization of the Lighthouse Service, which took effect July 1, 1910, shows that there has been a total net increase during the five-year period of 2,831, or 24 per cent, in the number of aids to navigation maintained over the corresponding number in 1910, while the total general appropriations for the support of the service during the fiscal year 1916 are about \$307,000 less than those for the fiscal year 1911. During the five years the number of gas buoys has been increased from 225 to 479, the number of oil-vapor installations at light stations from 80 to 286, fixed lights have been changed to flashing or occulting lights at 169 stations, the total number of fog signals, including sounding buoys, has been increased from 844 to 1,044, and the number of lights in Alaska from 37 to 112.

The United States Lighthouse Service maintains aids to navigation on all coasts under the jurisdiction of the United States, except the Philippine Islands and Panama, and also on the principal interior rivers. This service is charged with the maintenance of aids to navigation along 47,192 statute miles of coast line and river channel. On June 30, 1915, there were 5,792 persons employed in the Lighthouse Service, including 123 technical force, 145 clerical force, and 5,524 employees connected with depots, lighthouses, and vessels.

During the fiscal year there was a net increase of 359 in the total number of aids maintained, the total at the end of the year being 14,544. Of these 5,155 are lights of all classes and 577 are fog signals. The total number of aids in Alaska, comprising lights, fog signals, buoys, and daymarks, in commission at the close of the fiscal year was 338, including 112 lights.

Improvements in aids to navigation have been made during the year as follows: Flashing or occulting lights were installed in place of fixed lights at 29 stations; incandescent oil-vapor lights were substituted for oil-wick lamps at 21 stations; acetylene or oil gas lights were substituted for oil lights at 27 stations. Two new light vessels were completed during the year. New lighthouses, with fog signals, were established at Brandywine Shoal, Delaware Bay, Del., and Thimble Shoal, Chesapeake Bay, Va. It is believed that the systematic methods of improvement and the use of modern apparatus in increasing the number and brilliancy of aids have been of value to the safety of commerce.

Attention has been given to the improvement of various types of apparatus and equipment. Experiments were made with temporary gas lights for winter use at certain isolated stations on the Great Lakes with good results. Radio apparatus was ordered for five lighthouse tenders. Line-throwing guns have been installed at several Alaska Stations, to facilitate landing through the surf.

During the fiscal year 1915 services in saving life and property were rendered and acts of heroism performed by employees of the Lighthouse Service on 143 occasions.

AMERICAN TRADE BY COUNTRIES FOR OCTOBER.

Figures showing the total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during October and the 10 months ended with October, 1915, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year have been made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, as follows:

Grand division and country.	Month of October—		Ten months ended with October—	
	1915	1914	1915	1914
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	\$43,852,036	\$57,691,255	\$436,173,256	\$679,097,869
North America.....	38,672,400	35,746,149	423,394,514	364,666,303
South America.....	30,324,717	20,597,638	256,585,657	193,908,912
Asia.....	29,445,920	20,220,875	244,967,472	230,411,850
Oceania.....	4,829,725	5,024,953	49,404,685	45,333,817
Africa.....	2,047,931	799,650	27,000,691	16,739,943
Total.....	149,172,729	138,080,520	1,451,267,615	1,548,152,394
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....	175,595	362,534	4,846,154	13,284,031
Belgium.....	181,702	653,719	2,082,723	29,758,028
France.....	5,981,488	7,802,719	59,195,342	90,680,024
Germany.....	2,763,405	6,168,058	40,972,088	128,765,238
Italy.....	3,395,255	5,627,310	41,825,087	46,272,009
Netherlands.....	1,870,157	2,942,450	21,836,343	32,495,558
Norway.....	573,195	1,762,553	5,892,083	9,839,090
Russia in Europe.....	42,092	54,432	1,672,596	12,289,459
Spain.....	1,910,223	2,553,312	13,820,037	18,083,171
Sweden.....	1,144,437	1,292,045	9,456,003	9,199,847
Switzerland.....	1,416,567	1,688,337	15,426,735	17,366,431
United Kingdom.....	23,289,109	25,057,490	204,862,507	251,806,061
Canada.....	22,099,413	15,288,461	140,031,101	136,568,620
Mexico.....	5,713,746	6,957,003	72,518,240	73,780,393
Cuba.....	8,292,505	7,861,059	177,083,360	125,983,565
Argentina.....	7,420,381	5,870,171	76,315,321	50,040,098
Brazil.....	14,970,111	8,885,954	92,410,060	77,073,248
Chile.....	1,624,022	2,238,189	31,996,841	20,296,002
China.....	3,849,432	2,952,997	41,758,813	31,182,453
British East Indies.....	4,212,796	2,370,113	51,780,366	58,027,638
Japan.....	11,441,189	9,757,178	85,215,333	89,326,292
Australia and New Zealand.....	3,250,654	2,054,611	28,103,684	21,852,908
Philippine Islands.....	1,202,567	2,949,685	19,568,375	20,332,372
Egypt.....	466,594	519,243	16,325,316	12,656,943
EXPORTS TO.				
Europe.....	231,849,102	130,414,648	2,077,760,970	1,004,314,107
North America.....	56,720,055	38,564,008	443,522,892	412,809,159
South America.....	13,130,614	6,743,105	116,665,229	80,435,632
Asia.....	15,656,619	8,796,076	115,854,029	77,643,188
Oceania.....	6,946,544	7,442,336	77,587,020	64,852,756
Africa.....	3,724,347	2,748,999	29,125,308	22,056,297
Total.....	328,030,281	194,711,170	2,860,515,448	1,662,113,159
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....	1,024	.....	104,725	12,798,495
Belgium.....	1,685,358	446,650	18,068,048	33,890,925
Denmark.....	4,459,782	7,981,151	62,754,054	20,862,512
France.....	32,553,848	17,037,469	401,784,756	111,653,783
Germany.....	2,500	17,508	11,787,807	156,058,815
Greece.....	2,530,239	604,004	23,967,280	5,160,050
Italy.....	38,472,458	11,119,476	222,156,262	54,737,758
Netherlands.....	10,107,775	3,975,057	126,546,410	81,221,917
Norway.....	4,793,404	4,134,909	37,334,783	12,817,479
Russia in Europe.....	11,283,013	3,930,970	84,617,440	21,112,597
Spain.....	5,057,006	2,422,170	35,962,569	20,588,435
Sweden.....	6,377,788	5,830,106	72,840,438	15,503,915
United Kingdom.....	111,534,467	72,034,572	961,383,612	446,317,044
Canada.....	35,298,536	23,586,256	276,394,628	268,756,833
Central America.....	3,127,950	2,713,469	29,955,732	33,261,889
Mexico.....	3,974,663	3,001,144	32,504,795	27,677,612
Cuba.....	9,959,278	6,937,986	72,492,054	56,452,176
Argentina.....	4,827,491	1,695,698	42,785,957	24,399,390
Brazil.....	2,694,861	1,362,240	28,641,689	20,132,896

Grand division and country.	Month of October—		Ten months ended with October—	
	1915	1914	1915	1914
EXPORTS TO—continued.				
Principal countries—Continued.				
Chile.....	\$1,834,732	\$1,360,168	\$13,501,731	\$12,631,550
China.....	1,707,619	994,414	17,047,542	18,365,797
British East Indies.....	1,089,323	1,388,434	12,475,188	8,345,814
Japan.....	4,323,674	4,784,852	36,334,482	32,101,793
Russia in Asia.....	7,005,873	49,160	29,835,752	1,103,092
Australia and New Zealand.....	5,072,049	5,527,974	53,444,923	44,251,249
Philippine Islands.....	1,779,573	1,862,677	23,232,844	19,457,628
British Africa.....	2,539,674	1,479,787	19,724,969	13,373,576

UNPARALLELED TRADE RECORD.

A total trade of a half billion dollars in the month and of five billion dollars in the year, with exports comprising two-thirds of the whole, is the unparalleled record of American commerce in November and the 12 months ending with November. Figures made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, show that November imports were valued at \$164,319,169, as against \$126,467,062 in November, 1914, and that they exceeded by \$11,000,000 the former November record made in 1912. Twelve months' imports to November 30, 1915, aggregated \$1,730,243,229, as compared with \$1,858,645,027 in the preceding year.

November exports broke all prior records. Last month's total was \$331,144,527, as against \$328,030,281 in October, 1915, also a record. One year ago November exports aggregated \$205,878,333, and in 1912 the former record, \$278,244,191. Twelve months' exports rose to the new level of \$3,437,292,533, as against \$2,101,187,120 a year earlier, and \$2,501,138,471 two years ago.

The export balance for November was \$166,825,358, as compared with \$79,411,271 for November, 1914; and for the twelve months ending with November last, \$1,707,049,304, as against \$242,542,093 one year ago and \$738,472,118 two years ago.

Duty-free imports comprised 68.3 per cent of the November imports, compared with 62.1 per cent for November, 1914.

Gold imports during November, 1915, amounted to \$60,981,540, as against \$7,391,729 in November, 1914. Twelve months' imports of gold aggregated \$410,650,976, as compared with \$58,352,035 in the preceding year. November exports of gold were valued at \$3,661,153, as against \$14,526,482 in November, 1914; while for 12 months ending with November the total was \$19,667,557, as compared with \$233,057,825 in the preceding year. Instead of a net outward gold movement of \$174,705,790, as in the 12 months ending with November, 1914, the year just ended shows a net inward gold movement of \$390,983,419.

List of Rice Importers in Portugal.

American Consul General W. L. Lowrie, at Lisbon, Portugal, transmitted to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a list of importers of rice in Lisbon and Oporto. A copy of this list may be obtained at the Bureau or one of its district offices. Refer to file No. 70185.

MONACO OFFERS RELIEF FOR CONGESTED PORTS.

[Office of Commercial Attaché, Paris, France, Nov. 18.]

English merchants here recently reported that some shippers in their country were using the port of Monaco for the reception of goods destined to southern France, Switzerland, and Italy, to avoid the congestion existing at Marseille and Genoa. The British Chamber of Commerce in Paris confirmed the report, stating that some members were using Monaco to advantage; that expensive harbor dues were thus avoided; that unloading charges were most reasonable; and that there was no congestion there. The general agent of Adams Express Co. in Paris furnished a letter from the company's agent in Monaco on this subject. This letter, translated, is:

The port of Monaco is open to all international commerce, receiving at the quay ships of 7 meters (22.97 feet) draft of water. Also this harbor can receive ships drawing 8½ meters, which, however, must lighten themselves at some distance from the quay by discharging a part of their cargo into lighters, afterwards approaching and discharging at the quay. Just at present there are no discharging cranes on the quay, but plans are being made to have such cranes in the near future. Now the discharging is effected by windlasses on board the ship and by the stout backs of workmen, and discharge is about at the rate of 250 tons per day. It is also possible to rent from the port authorities for 100 francs (\$19.30) per day a movable crane which can lift 40 tons, but there is no absolute assurance that this crane can be had on a particular day or for a particular rate.

There is along the quay one railway line which connects with the main line of railway of the district. Port pilotage is not obligatory, but the authorities furnish a pilot and the necessary workmen for mooring purposes at a very reasonable charge, maximum 200 francs. There are no port dues. Water is abundant, of good quality, and costs 1½ francs per ton.

As to customs duties, these are in the charge of the French Government, and all the rules of the French customs apply to Monaco. Sanitary charges, completely distinct from pilotage charges, are 0.15 francs (15 centimes) per ton of vessel measurement.

The letter from the Adams Express Co. agent in Monaco closes with the statement: "Please take note that I am at your complete disposition for caring for all formalities in case of shipments to this port; in fact, if shipments are consigned to me, I will see to it that careful and prompt attention will be given to all deliveries or further forwarding."

The American consul general in Marseille was asked for some information on this matter, and he has transmitted the opinion of a steamship company official in Marseille, to the effect that port facilities in Monaco are rather limited, and that there are no sheds for storage purposes on the quays. Perhaps, however, the matter of using Monaco can be taken up with shippers and shipowners, and the port be used for the reception of some of the freight being sent now to very congested harbors on this side of the Atlantic.

BUREAU STUDIES PAPER-PLANT PROBLEMS.

Numerous paper plants in the Middle West and the East, including the vicinity of Montreal, have been visited recently by a representative of the United States Bureau of Standards with the purpose of getting in close touch with the manufacturing phases of the paper industry. The bureau's work on paper can be planned and carried out with a clearer comprehension of plant problems as a result of this tour.

THE TORRENS LAND SYSTEM IN CANADA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Calgary, Alberta, Oct. 30.]

The system of land registration in effect in the Province of Alberta is known as the Torrens system. It has been in use in several of the States of the Commonwealth of Australia for about 60 years. The chief object of the system is the registration of transactions relating to interests in land under Government authority and with Government certificates of ownership and title. Registration districts are established, with a land-titles office for each. A registrar is appointed for each district, with as many assistant registrars, land surveyors, and clerks as may be necessary.

One of the important features of the system is an indemnity fund to compensate any person who may suffer loss by the operation of the act in the registration offices. The statute prescribes short forms for all documents used in transactions that concern interests in land and that take effect only upon registration. The documents must be in statutory form. A certificate of ownership is issued by the registrar, and a duplicate thereof is delivered to the owner. The duplicate certificate of title is *prima facie* evidence of ownership. The duplicate certificate of title must be presented to and lodged with the registrar when a mortgage is registered against the land. Generally speaking, the duplicate certificate of title must be presented to the registrar upon the registration of any document affecting the land. A memorandum of every registered document is noted on the certificate of title and on the duplicate.

When the Land Changes Hands—Tariff of Fees.

When an owner disposes of his interest in the land the certificate of title and his duplicate are canceled. The owner surrenders his duplicate, and a new certificate and duplicate are issued in the name of the new owner. These bear only such memoranda of registered instruments as have not been discharged. They are therefore issued subject only to such documents as remain against the land at the time of the change of ownership. Upon the change of ownership a payment is made to the indemnity fund previously referred to. The payment to the indemnity fund (or the "assurance fund," as it is called in the act) is made only upon the increase in value of the land since the issue of the last certificate of title and duplicate. An affidavit of value must accompany the document by which the land is conveyed. The registrar, for a small fee, must furnish any person with an abstract of title of any parcel of land.

The tariff of fees under the Land Titles Act varies, but the principal fees are: For registering a transfer and issuing a certificate of title thereon and duplicate thereof, and including fees for memoranda, searches, and inspections, \$3 where value of property does not exceed \$500 and \$4 where value of property is over \$500; for registering or filing any lease, mortgage, incumbrance, etc., \$1.50; for filing caveat and preparing and mailing notices in connection therewith, \$2; for registration of each plan of subdivision, exclusive of extra certificates of title, \$10; for certificate of title on a transmission, including fees for duplicate thereof and for registration, \$5.

IMPORTS OF CEMENT INTO SOUTHERN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Oct. 27.]

The imports of cement into Madras Presidency during the six months from April 1, 1915, to September 30, 1915, inclusive, were 328,432 hundredweight of 112 pounds, valued at \$330,130. During the entire fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, the imports were 334,444 hundredweight, valued at \$287,402; in 1913-14 the quantity imported was 347,981 hundredweight, valued at \$280,607.

Thus the purchases of cement from abroad have been heavy in recent months and values particularly have increased. The United Kingdom is the principal source of supply, but Denmark and Japan have been developing trade in this region, the amount sent by them now being more than was formerly supplied by Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Belgium. Japanese and Danish brands of cement underquote English brands in the local market. The customs returns credit to the United States a very small amount of the cement imported, but possibly some American cement is included in imports from the United Kingdom.

Import Figures Showing Changes in Countries of Origin.

The following table shows the imports of cement into southern India, by countries, for the year ended March 31, 1915, and the six months ended September 30, 1915:

Countries.	1914-15		Apr. 1-Sept. 30, 1915.	
	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Austria-Hungary.....	1,694	\$1,173		
Belgium.....	6,415	4,460	400	\$213
Caleutta.....			837	519
Ceylon.....	4,765	5,135		
Denmark.....	584	424	33,192	31,915
Germany.....	23,451	17,100	1,757	1,492
Italy.....	2,708	2,015	3,013	2,482
Japan.....	549	387	11,642	9,929
Norway.....			1,675	1,400
Straits Settlements (including Labuan).....	176	174	1,786	1,460
Sweden.....			8,927	8,300
United Kingdom.....	294,100	256,513	203,130	301,436
United States (Atlantic coast).....	2	23		
Total.....	334,444	287,404	356,359	362,104

Price of Cement in Madras.

Cement is much used in southern India for construction purposes in various harbor and railroad enterprises, and also as material for buildings. Some enterprises have been affected by the war, but building in which cement is employed is proceeding in various cities. There is a Portland-cement factory of some importance at Madras that manufactures Portland cement according to the British standard requirements. It is the only establishment of its kind in southern India.

The prices for cement on October 15, 1915, as quoted by the Madras Chamber of Commerce, ranged from \$3.56 to \$4.05 per barrel for English brands; Japanese and Danish cement was \$3.24 per barrel.

[A list of cement importers in southern India may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 60657.]

WHEAT AND CORN IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 1.]

Madrid newspapers of the past week have commented on the shortage of visible wheat in the grain markets of Spain and call attention to the recent rise in the price, as follows: In market of Rioseco, from 332.40 to 335.30 pesetas; in Barcelona, from 378.50 to 382.50 pesetas; in Medina del Campo, from 335.30 to 341.10 pesetas; in Valladolid, from 342.50 to 346.90 pesetas.

These quotations are on metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds; the peseta at to-day's quotation is about 19.2 cents. It is to be noted that in dealing with the farmers the unit usually employed is the fanega, which is the equivalent of about 1.57 bushels. In the open market, however, the metric unit prevails.

[Reports concerning a reduction of duty on wheat and flour in Spain and a subsequent decision to admit free 200,000 metric tons of wheat were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 8 and Dec. 9, 1915.]

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 4.]

Spanish Imports of Wheat and Corn.

Official statistics published in the Gaceta de Madrid, the official organ of the Spanish Government, show that 11,281 metric tons of wheat, of 2,204.6 pounds each, were imported into Spain during the month of September last. All of this came from the United States 5,628 tons being unloaded at Barcelona. Of corn, 26,745 tons were imported during September, of which 10,190 tons were received at Barcelona. Nearly all the corn was of South American origin. Barley, rye, and oats were not imported.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	Do.	Do.
Pock, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Port Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(e)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY OF NATAL.

[Consul William W. Masterson, Durban, Natal, Union of South Africa, Oct. 23.]

The profits in dairying in the Durban district were well illustrated recently in the annual report of a Natal creamery company, in which the following encouraging figures were submitted. The balance sheet showed a turnover of \$427,879 and a gross profit of \$48,665, and \$34,065 was carried forward to the next account.

Stated in another way, this company paid a dividend of 10 per cent; in addition there was a surplus of earnings on hand sufficient to distribute a bonus of 3 per cent to farmers and others from whom the company purchases its supplies of milk and cream, as well as awarding the staff a bonus of 10 per cent on their salaries and wages. This creamery company is not the largest that is doing business in Natal, there being one other company exceeding it in output and money invested, but this company's annual report was cited simply to show what was being done along this line.

Durban District Well Adapted for Dairying.

A very considerable portion of the Durban district is well adapted to dairy farming, although until the present the upland country only has been used for that purpose. It is now claimed that the coast lands are even better adapted to grazing, as there is much more moisture and the grazing season will naturally extend that much longer. In seasons of normal rainfall cattle thrive on the open veld for eight months and sometimes nine months of the year, while in some places irrigation is being employed to enable farmers to grow forage crops for winter use. The principal crops grown for feeding dairy cattle are mealies (Indian corn), alfalfa to some extent, oats, mangolds, rye, cowpeas, and a coarse grass that is cut for hay. A small amount of ensilage is also used by some of the more progressive farmers, principally green corn and alfalfa.

In the beginning this industry suffered many discouragements, particularly in the fatal diseases among the cattle, but of late years such diseases have been overcome by the general dipping of cattle. Droughts, too, were discouraging; but with the raising of other crops for feeding and, more recently, the installation of irrigation systems, the dairy industry has been prospering. To the present European war may be ascribed much of the increased prosperity among Natal dairymen, for supplies of cheese and butter from Europe have been about cut off and the people forced to patronize home industries. Indications are that the domestic industry will shortly be so well established that it will be almost impossible for European butter and cheese ever to recover their lost market in South Africa.

Governmental Encouragement—Creameries and Cheese Factories.

The Union Department of Agriculture has established a dairying division, consisting of a superintendent of dairying, one senior inspector, one junior inspector, and four instructors. A dairy inspector is assigned to each of the four Provinces, whose duty it is to go among the farmers and instruct them in the most approved ideas of dairying. They also give lectures at convenient centers and at agricultural shows on all points connected with butter and cheese making as well as on milk and cream testing.

The establishment of creameries and cheese factories has been a wonderful stimulus to the cattle-raising and dairying industries. In 1913 (the latest year for which returns are available) there were 42 creameries in operation in the Union, 21 being run as business properties for investment and 21 being on the cooperative plan; and in the same year there were reported 41 cheese factories, the most of which were small concerns. Twelve of the cooperative creameries received grants from public funds to assist in their establishment, the money so advanced to be returned in installments carrying a low rate of interest.

Production and Exports.

In 1911 there were in the Union of South Africa 5,797,000 cattle, of which number 1,900,230 were dairy cows. A census of cattle taken this year would show a marvelous increase over the 1911 figures, particularly as to dairy cows.

South Africa's production of butter and cheese in 1913 (latest returns available) was as follows, in pounds: Butter—by creameries, 7,659,748; by farmers, sold on the market, 2,237,219; by farmers, sold to merchants, 844,778; total, 10,741,745; cheese produced by factories, public and private, 520,849. In that year there were 397,106 pounds of butter and 27,299 pounds of cheese exported from the Union.

It is impossible to give Natal's share in any of the above figures. In cheese making Cape Province probably leads, but in butter making Natal is likely abreast of the Cape, and these two far outrank the other Provinces of the Union.

DISTRICT OFFICE OF BUREAU AIDS SHIPPERS.

As a result of the large amount of work that has been done by the St. Louis district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in explaining the details of the new shippers' export declaration, a letter has been received by Commercial Agent George W. Doonan, in charge of that office, from P. W. Coyle, traffic commissioner of the Business Men's League of St. Louis, stating that the cooperation of the bureau has assisted the league in satisfying its members as to the reasonableness and importance of complying with the regulations of the Treasury Department regarding the export declaration. This is cited by the commissioner as further evidence of the efficiency of the bureau and its value to the shipping community.

MADRID EXPECTS NEW LINE TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Spain, Nov. 8.]

The press of Madrid for the past three or four weeks has been printing, as news, statements that a Spanish company is contemplating the installation of a passenger and fast-freight line between Vigo and New York. Some of the articles go much further than that and enter into details as if the service were an assured fact. Many inquiries have been made at this consulate, not only by Spanish citizens but also by officials of the Spanish Government. The form of these inquiries indicates the existence of a belief that such a line is to be established, but that it is to be an American line, and not Spanish.

MARKET FOR SUGAR MACHINERY IN HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa.]

Many farmers in Honduras raise sugar cane, but there are only two or three small mills that are run by steam and none that treat cane not produced on their own plantations. "Panela," a dark-brown unrefined sugar, is the sugar in common use; it is made from cane treated in wooden "trapiches," and the crudest methods are employed.

Occasional mills and kettles are purchased through the local hardware dealers, but because of excessive freight charges and customs duties, together with what seems to be an undue percentage of profit for the merchant, the price of even a very modest equipment is excessive. Lacking also the mechanical training or ability, the planter usually installs such an outfit in a manner the reverse of the proper way; the crusher is often found down near the bed of a creek and the kettles on higher ground.

This consulate has recently received a number of very complete catalogues of sugar machinery and plantation accessories printed in the Spanish language; these are probably too elaborate and expensive to distribute indiscriminately. There is need of a modest catalogue or circular in Spanish, especially for small sugar plants, showing prices f. o. b. steamer, and giving simple sketches or plans for the proper installation of such plants, together with some simple suggestions and instructions for the manufacture of raw sugar and sirups. Such a catalogue could be sent direct to the small planter and would surely be received with great interest by the average farmer in Honduras. Its efficiency would not be confined to Honduras only, but it would be applicable to all Central America and parts of South America.

Lack of Mechanical Ability.

The people of Honduras, especially away from the larger towns, are very deficient in mechanical ability. It is necessary to submit plans for installing the simplest machine. Many plants have been bought in the case of which the buyer has failed entirely in assembling them; rather than acknowledge his inability, the owner permits the machinery to rust until some foreign mechanic happens along to explain how to install it.

There is submitted with this report a list of planters in the Tegucigalpa consular district who have under cultivation 10 acres each or more of sugar cane. Those having more than 25 acres are also indicated. [This list may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 57497.] If makers of sugar machinery will address a personal letter with catalogue to each of the names listed and will follow up these letters with others, endeavoring to give a personal tone to them, business relations will undoubtedly be established.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1030 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Hospital stores, No. 2848.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until January 5, 1916, for furnishing and delivering unsweetened chocolate, malted milk, nutmeg, ox-tail and mock-turtle soup in cans, granulated sugar, and Ceylon tea.

Buoy swivels, No. 2849.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until January 4, 1916, for furnishing and delivering first, second, and third class buoy swivels for Fort McHenry range lights, Maryland, and stock. Further information may be had on application to the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y.

Construction work, No. 2850.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Commissioner of Fisheries, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until January 18, 1916, for the construction of cement retaining tanks and open shed at Louisville, Ky., fisheries station. Specifications, plans, and further information may be had on application to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

Rent of Lighthouse Reservation, No. 2851.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., for the use of a portion of lighthouse reservation at Charlotte, N. Y., under revocable license. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Power houses, No. 2852.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States engineer, Wheeling district, Wheeling, W. Va., until January 28, 1916, for building fireproof power houses at dams Nos. 16 and 17, Ohio River. Additional information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Construction work, No. 2853.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 28, 1916, for the construction of the United States post office at Washington, Iowa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Washington, or at the office of the Supervising Architect.

Condemned lighthouse materials, No. 2854.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Lighthouse Inspector, Philadelphia, Pa., until January 28, 1916, for the purchase of condemned materials and supplies. Blank proposals and particulars may be had on application to the above-named office.

Cement, No. 2855.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until January 17, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., 8,000 barrels of Portland cement, in accordance with specifications, copies of which, together with further information, may be had on application to the Washington office.

Cedar, juniper, or spruce logs, No. 2856.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing 250 cedar, juniper, or spruce logs for spar buoys. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Excavating, etc., No. 2857.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until January 18, 1916, for the construction of about 9½ miles of the Peach Valley lateral, Uncompahgre Valley project, in the vicinity of Austin, Colo. The work involves the excavation of about 50,200 cubic yards of material in open cut. For particulars address the United States Reclamation Service, Montrose, Colo.; Tramway Building, Denver, Colo.; or Washington, D. C.

Medical supplies, No. 2858.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York City, until December 29, 1915, for furnishing and delivering aqua hydrogenii dioxide bottles; ether tins; chloroform tins; white-pine lumber, spruce lumber; standard packing boxes; box shooks; hand atomizers; rubber hot-water bags; rubber ice bags; rubber bandages, elastic bands; erasers; paints; varnishes, etc.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.]

- Seamless steel tubing, etc.*, No. 19615.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a company in his district desires to import seamless steel tubing of all kinds and tungsten filament in large quantities.
- General representation*, No. 19616.—A business man in Spain informs an American consular officer that he desires to correspond with manufacturers desiring to extend their trade in Spanish markets. Correspondence should be in Spanish. No particular line is mentioned.
- Automobiles, etc.*, No. 19617.—A report from an American consular officer states that a manufacturers' agent in Cuba has a customer for cheap and moderate-priced motor cars and trucks. The inquirer states that he also desires to represent manufacturers of machinery and supplies for sugar mills.
- Blouses, jerseys, etc.*, No. 19618.—A company in Chile informs an American consular officer that it desires to import all varieties of womens' ready-made blouses in silk and linen, jersey and sweater coats for women in silk, imitation silk, and wool; ready-made clothing, and dress models for the retail trade. Catalogues are not wanted. Samples should be sent.
- Pencils, fountain pens, etc.*, No. 19619.—An American consular officer in France reports that a business man in his district desires to obtain an agency for manufacturers of pencils, fountain pens, inks, and glue. Correspondence may be in English.
- Barbers' chairs and supplies*, No. 19620.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that there have been inquiries for barbers' chairs and supplies, and requests that catalogues, price lists, and full information regarding terms, ability to ship, direct or through an agent, etc., be sent. Terms desired are cash against documents at port of destination. However, if 90 days' sight draft should be allowed, references will be forwarded through a bank.
- Sewing and hand knitting machines*, No. 19621.—A man in Russia requests an American consular officer to give the name and address of an agent in Russia or Sweden representing American manufacturers of sewing machines, both for domestic and factory use; also hand knitting machines. Catalogues and prices f. o. b. Russian ports for wholesale purchases, together with weights and dimensions in Russian, are requested. Correspondence may be in English. Reference is given.
- Potato seeds*, No. 19622.—A report from an American consular officer in India states that a man desires to be placed in communication with firms exporting potato seeds. Quotations for 1,000 to 2,000 bags of potato seeds, including freight, are requested.
- Dry goods, hosiery, etc.*, No. 19623.—A company in Argentina informs an American consular officer that it desires to act as agent, on a commission basis, for manufacturers or exporters of dry goods in general, hosiery, bazaar goods, chemical and pharmaceutical products, etc. Firms are requested to send catalogues, samples, and quotations. References are given. Correspondence should be in Spanish.
- Cotton goods*, No. 19624.—A commission firm in Brazil desires to represent cotton-goods manufacturers. Samples of the goods wanted may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 70034.) The goods are intended for the manufacture of shirts, underwear, and other dress goods. Terms desired are 120 days' sight draft from date of shipment, commission 10 per cent on total amount of sale. Bank references are given.
- Wearing apparel*, No. 19625.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that an agent in the textile business desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of women's wearing apparel, such as hats, waists, collars, hosiery, and silk, cotton, and woollen articles in general, with a view to acting as agent on a commission basis.
- Jewelry, lighting apparatus, etc.*, No. 19626.—A manufacturer's agent informs an American consular officer that he desires to act as agent, on a commission basis, for manufacturers of real and imitation jewelry, gas and electric lighting apparatus, suit cases and other traveler's requisites, photographic accessories, perfumery, soaps, toys, etc.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 300 Washington, D. C., Thursday, December 23 1915

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LICENSE FOR BRITISH OPTICAL-INSTRUMENT TRADE.

[Cablegram from American consul general at London, dated Dec. 20.]

Minister of Munitions prohibits all dealings without license in certain optical instruments, including prismatic binoculars, monoculars, telescopes, periscopes, and compasses for reading an azimuth angle simultaneously with sighting of object.

TO RELIEVE SHIPPING CONGESTION AT GENOA.

[Cablegram from American ambassador at Rome, Italy, dated Dec. 20.]

To relieve the congestion at the port of Genoa and enable ships to get away sooner, a Royal decree has been issued empowering the Minister of Marine to cause vessels either en route to or already arrived at Genoa either to be temporarily detained at Genoa or to proceed elsewhere to be unloaded in some other Italian port in the Tyrrhenian Sea not south of the parallel of Civitavecchia.

Foreign Office circular requests that foreign shipping interests be informed of this decree through their Governments, also that necessary instructions be issued to ships already en route to Genoa to stop at Gibraltar and obtain instructions from the Italian consul there as to the precise Italian port such vessels shall proceed to from Gibraltar.

CONCESSION FOR PHILIPPINE FOREST LAND.

The Bureau of Forestry at Manila invited bids, to be opened October 1, 1915, for a long-term, exclusive concession covering the so-called "Ragay Gulf" or "Mt. Labo" tract of forest land lying to the north and northeast of the headwaters of Ragay Gulf, in the Provinces of Tayabas and Ambos Camarines. Inasmuch as no satisfactory bids were received, the Bureau of Forestry now announces that it will receive and act upon at any time any suitable application for this valuable concession.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs at Washington is prepared to furnish to those interested full information regarding this tract.

IMPORTATIONS OF WOOLEN GOODS INTO BURMA.

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Rangoon, Nov. 4.]

An inquiry, accompanied by samples, regarding opportunities for sale in Burma of woollen fleecy fabrics has been received and a notice was inserted in the "Trade inquiry lists" which the Rangoon consulate publishes twice a month. Although these lists were sent to every dealer and commission agent in Rangoon, no responses have been received regarding the fleecy fabrics. From personal investigation it has been learned that there is a very small market in Burma for such fabrics, as there are no manufacturers of petticoats, women's underwear, wrappers, bath robes, etc. Occasionally the department stores make up such articles on special orders, but the demand is very small.

During the year ended March 31, 1915, woollen goods valued at \$980,470 were imported into the Province of Burma from all foreign countries, as compared with \$1,854,570 in the preceding year. This large decrease was due to the lack of supplies from Continental Europe after the war started. The most important item in the importation of woollen goods was in piece goods, which reached a value of \$1,120,100 during the year ended March 31, 1914, but declined to only \$646,320 in the year ended March 31, 1915.

The importations of the principal kinds of woollen goods into Burma for the two years ended March 31, 1914 and 1915, respectively, were: Yarn and knitting wool, \$58,120 and \$19,600; braids, etc., \$90,610 and \$27,230; carpets and rugs, \$251,600 and \$177,310; hosiery, \$96,820 and \$91,420; piece goods, \$1,120,100 and \$646,320; shawls, \$228,950 and \$17,570.

[A list of department stores and commission agents dealing in woollen goods in Rangoon, Burma, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 70,173.]

TEST OF HOLLOW BUILDING TILE.

A very interesting test of hollow building tile has been made by the United States Bureau of Standards. A floor slab 6 feet wide and 30 feet long continued over three piers 15 feet apart was made of this class of material. This tile is of a special type for use in floor slabs and is made so that the bottom surface is about 2 inches wider than the top. In laying the tile in the form of a slab, the pieces touch on the bottom, but are about 2 inches apart at the top. This space continues throughout the length of the slab, and is filled with a mortar of the composition of one part of cement and two of sand, in which are placed several reinforcing rods bent up at the ends of the slab and continued through the concrete beam into the next adjacent slab.

In the present case the two slabs were allowed to age for one month. Tests were made of these, loaded uniformly with pig lead, numerous deflection readings being made as different loads were applied. One of the slabs failed at about 603 pounds per square foot. The other was able to withstand a slightly greater load, 690 pounds per square foot. Failure occurred in the mortar beams, due largely to the inferior grade of reinforcing used. One of the concrete supporting piers also failed near its base. While the load carried was not up to the expectations of the manufacturers of the tile, yet it was considerably in excess of that demanded by most building laws.

VISITORS AT BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

Interest in the scientific work that is being done by the United States Bureau of Standards is shown by the number of visitors received in the course of a month. Among those who called in November to study the bureau's technical work, or to consult those in charge, were the Secretary of the Navy, with the Secretary of Commerce; representatives of the Pennsylvania Railroad, of large department stores in New York and Philadelphia, of a large Chicago mail-order house, a Massachusetts cordage company, a western electrical company, a local paper company, a Pittsburgh electrical company, a Maine paper company, and the Forest Products Laboratory.

Lines in which these visitors were interested included specifications, new types of cloth, paper, textiles, and other materials, and the technical problems connected with them.

Members of a large zinc company called in reference to the bureau's work on properties of pure zinc, and the bureau received an invoice of exceptionally pure zinc ($99.99+\text{Zn}$) from them for use as a pyrometric melting-point standard and for determination of physical properties. The chief chemist of a leading aluminum company called to arrange for preparing pure aluminum for the same purpose.

Representatives of the District of Columbia health department and printers' union asked advice concerning protection from metal fumes in linotype baths.

The director of an industrial research laboratory consulted the bureau concerning practice to free ingots from surface blow holes for steel of which automobile bodies are shaped. The requirements are very exacting, as the slightest seam developed from blow holes causes varnish to blister.

Representatives of the Japanese naval testing laboratory called to inspect the bureau's methods of metallographic work. A representative of an electric company visited the bureau for information to aid in equipping a projected research laboratory for metals, etc.

The metallurgist of an important steel and wire company called to discuss in detail cooperation with the bureau in investigation of galvanized processes and materials.

WANTS COOKSTOVE SUITED TO USE OF CRUDE OIL.

A business firm in Guayaquil, Ecuador, has written to an American manufacturer, suggesting the possibility of placing on the market in that country a cookstove that would be adapted to the use of crude coal oil as fuel. The South American firm states that the crude oil to be used there is of about the density of that produced in Pennsylvania. The desired range, it says, should be of very light sheet steel or iron, reasonably strong and safe, and be sold at a price within the reach of persons of limited means. The name of this firm, which has been furnished by Commercial Agent Porter, at New York, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices.

PHILADELPHIA-ECUADOR STEAMSHIP LINE PROPOSED.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Nov. 17.]

The Congress of the Republic of Ecuador has granted a concession for a steamship line between Guayaquil and Philadelphia. The executive is authorized, in accordance with the legal requirements, to sign a contract to establish a line between the United States and Guayaquil. The corporation is to be known as the United States & Ecuadorian Steamship Co., incorporated in the State of Delaware, and the line of steamers is to be operated between one of the principal ports of the United States on the Atlantic Coast—Philadelphia preferred—and the port of Guayaquil, through the Panama Canal.

The vessels are to be registered in the Republic of Ecuador, to navigate under the Ecuadorian flag, and at least one-half of the employees are to be of that nation. The company must admit on its vessels up to six marine guards, designated by the executive, for the purpose of continuing a course of practical navigation and naval engineering, under the direction of the chiefs and officers of the company's vessels.

The company is required to establish the line within 1½ years from the signing of the contract, with two steamers of the first class for passengers and freight; after two years, two more steamers of the same class and tonnage to be added. Various specifications are provided in regard to the construction of the vessels and the service to be rendered.

[Mention was made of this project in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 15, 1915.]

THIS YEAR'S FLAX HARVEST IN RUSSIA.

[Weekly Bulletin, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Nov. 22.]

The Torgovo Promyshlennaya Gazetta of October 14, 1915, announces that the prospects of this year's flax harvest in Russia are satisfactory, and tests that have been made with this year's fiber also show satisfactory results. A considerable demand from abroad is anticipated. It is generally estimated that the surplus from last year will not exceed 3 per cent. It is pointed out that, though the harvest for 1914 was less than that of previous years, 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 poods (90,300 to 108,300 short tons) were left over for exportation after the home demand of 10,000,000 to 11,000,000 poods (180,600 to 198,600 tons) had been satisfied. On the assumption that the yield of flax this year will approach the average for previous years it is estimated that the harvest will amount to 17,000,000 to 19,000,000 poods (307,000 to 343,100 tons), even when allowing for only 30 per cent of the average production in the districts affected by the military operations. It is anticipated that this yield of flax will be ample for home requirements and will leave a surplus for export.

UNIVERSITY FOR MANCHURIA.

[National Review of China, Nov. 20.]

The Chiangchun of Mukden, Gen. Tuan Chihkwei, has proposed to the Chinese Ministry of Education that there should be established in Manchuria a thoroughly up-to-date university. The proposal has received the approval of the ministry, and it is expected that the university will be established and in working order before very long.

NEED OF PARCEL-POST EXCHANGE WITH SIAM.

[Consul General Frank D. Arnold, Bangkok, Oct. 11.]

The greatest drawback to the extension of American trade in Siam is the lack of a parcel-post exchange between the United States and this country. At present all parcels cost letter-postage rate, which is prohibitive, inasmuch as the sample post rate can not be used on this class of shipments.

I am informed by the postal authorities that of the 336 parcels received in Siam for the past week not one was from America. They were almost entirely from countries which have entered into parcel-post agreements with Siam, these countries being Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Italy, and the Dutch Indies.

The Siamese look with great favor upon American goods, and, through proper shipping facilities and parcel post, they could be brought into contact with many products of American manufacturers which are at present barred by the high postal rate. Through the aid of our catalogues, magazines, and advertising pamphlets many small articles could be introduced, and this I am sure would lead to larger future shipments, especially of many articles which were formerly furnished by Germany and now are unobtainable.

The consulate general has established a reading room where magazines, trade reports, pamphlets, etc., may be consulted, and this has been taken advantage of by both Siamese and Europeans. If we had a parcel post agreement, there is no doubt that the result of such inquiries and information would lead to a great increase of American goods into Siam.

LIVE STOCK IN ARGENTINA.

The Argentine Bureau of Rural Economy and Statistics has just issued a map which shows the number of live stock in the seven Provinces of Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Corrientes, Entre Rios, Mendoza, San Luis, and Santa Fe, as follows: Cattle, 23,746,900; hogs, 2,646,761; horses, 7,515,018; mules 36,269; sheep, 52,220,871; goats, 1,715,772. The report adds that in each of the territories of La Pampa and Rio Negro there are more than 6,000,000 sheep, and in El Chaco more than 600,000 cattle. According to all estimates, there has been a decrease in the total number of live stock in Argentina in the last 10 years, but owing to the higher prices received for stock at the present time there is an increase in value over that of 10 years ago. The total sales for 1914 amounted to \$811,941, while the 1915 sales have reached \$1,300,878. [A previous note on the live-stock statistics in Argentina was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 5, 1915.]

AUSTRIAN WINDOW-GLASS MARKET.

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad.]

Despite a recent increase of 10 per cent in the price of window glass, the makers of this product in this neighborhood have so many orders that those placed by private persons are for delivery six months in advance. This abnormal demand is caused not only by the great number of barracks, permanent camps, and warehouses being built by the Government and incident to the war but also by the need for building supplies in Galicia.

IMPROVED TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

[Consul P. Merrill Griffith, Santiago de Cuba, Dec. 11.]

Modern automatic telephone systems, with complete underground cables, are now in operation in Santiago de Cuba and many other Cuban cities. The old magneto system, formerly in use and very unsatisfactory, has been changed throughout the island. Long-distance service is furnished to nearly all the cities and large sugar mills.

The Cuban Telephone Co., an American concern which obtained its concession in 1909, owns and operates practically all the local and long-distance lines in Cuba. It has constructed new central offices in Santiago during the past year at a cost of \$75,000, the building being handsome in design and composed entirely of reinforced concrete. The new switchboard now being installed is for 2,000 lines, and all the material is of American manufacture.

The headquarters of the company are in Habana. The cities in which the automatic system has been installed are Habana, Cienfuegos, Cardenas, Sagua la Grande, Santiago de Cuba, and Matanzas. Those operating under the manual system are Artemisa, Bayamo, Ciego de Avilo, Guines, Guanajay, Holguin, Pinar del Rio, Plantas, San Antonio de Los Baños, San Luis, Santiago de Las Vegas, Victoria de Las Tunas, and Santa Clara.

ROOT CROPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

[Agricultural returns of England and Wales; transmitted by Consul John S. Armstrong, Bristol, England, No. 26.]

The following table shows the estimated total production, acreage, and yield per acre in 1914 and 1915, and the average yield per acre in the 10 years, 1905 to 1914, of the potato and other root crops of England and Wales:

Articles.	Estimated production.		Acreage.		Average yield per acre.		Average yield per acre, 1905-1914.
	1914	1915	1914	1915	1914	1915	
England:	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>			<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Potatoes.....	2,807,255	2,702,181	436,172	436,940	6.44	6.18	6.22
Turnips and swedes...	12,598,326	11,068,241	986,869	878,471	12.77	12.60	13.01
Mangold.....	7,719,680	7,627,661	420,335	401,048	18.37	19.02	19.46
Wales:							
Potatoes.....	145,854	155,032	25,440	26,459	5.73	5.89	5.34
Turnips and swedes...	852,455	738,301	55,569	50,753	15.34	14.55	15.24
Mangold.....	199,087	206,927	11,031	11,461	18.05	18.05	18.01
England and Wales:							
Potatoes.....	2,953,109	2,858,113	461,621	463,399	6.40	6.17	6.17
Turnips and swedes...	13,450,781	11,806,542	1,042,438	929,224	12.90	12.71	13.13
Mangold.....	7,918,767	7,834,588	431,366	412,509	18.36	18.99	19.46

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 403 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1099 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

WEST AFRICAN COCOA INDUSTRY.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal.]

"Cocoa" to most individuals suggests carefully and tastefully packed art boxes or tins or, in chocolate form, delightful little packages done up in neat silver paper and prettily tied with bows of silk ribbon. To some it means a welcome and fragrant breakfast or supper beverage. To few indeed does it represent anything else.

The man in the street, if he thinks at all upon investing his savings in cocoa, argues that there is a limit to human digestion, particularly where sweetmeats are concerned, and, consequently, that he need not trouble himself about "futures" in cocoa, for the field is at best a restricted one. It never occurs to him that every kind of vegetable oil and fat is becoming more in demand every day. Somehow he never asks himself why cocoa of a certain brand is 50 cents per pound and another 25 cents. He presumes—and if he tries it he knows—that the one is better than the other; but it does not occur to him that there is something in the one that is lacking in the other.

Introduction of Cocoa into West Africa.

The total world production to-day exceeds a quarter of a million tons of cocoa per annum. The East and West Indies and the great Amazonian Valley have for generations poured their supplies into Europe and America; but it is only within the last 30 years that West Africa has made its influence felt.

Given a humid atmosphere, well-watered land, and a tropical sun, experts claim that cocoa will grow almost anywhere up to a height of 1,500 feet. Of lands enjoying atmospheric conditions highly suitable for the production of cocoa there are 500,000 square miles in the tropical regions of West Africa. São Thomé and Príncipe, with less than 300 square miles under cultivation, supply to the world's markets over 30,000 tons of cocoa every year; if, therefore, but one-fourth of the potential cocoa-producing areas of West Africa could be brought under cultivation at the same rate there could be harvested over 10,000,000 tons of cocoa.

To-day cocoa is being cultivated in the German colonies of Togoland and Kamerun; in the Portuguese colonies São Thomé and Príncipe; in the Belgian Kongo; in the Spanish island Fernando Po; and in the British colonies Gold Coast and Nigeria. In all these the production has distinctive features.

Cultivation in Portuguese Colonies.

From the standpoint of plantation arrangements and the application of scientific methods, the Portuguese in São Thomé are easily first. This no doubt is due to the fact that for over 25 years the planters have been concentrating their efforts upon the cocoa bean. Throughout their whole area São Thomé and Príncipe are under cocoa cultivation, and the traveler never gets away from the sour odor of fermenting cocoa.

Nowhere throughout West Africa are there such scientific and elaborate drying grounds as one sees on the Portuguese islands. The majority of cocoa planters in West Africa are satisfied with cemented drying grounds in open courtyards; some spread the beans on large grass or palm mats or on burlap. The cocoa beans are spread out to dry, and left in the open not only during the whole day but through-

out the night. On several roças (farms) the Portuguese have, at great expense, fitted up drying grounds which are mechanically moved under shelter whenever a storm threatens.

There are nearly 300 roças on the two islands, and, with one or two exceptions, they are in Portuguese hands; there is a Belgian plantation, and one or two owned by natives from Sierra Leone, whose ability to make cocoa production a financial success is demonstrated by the fact that one who died recently left about \$30,000 for the education of the children of the island of São Thomé.

Transportation in Portuguese Islands—German Colonies.

The cocoa plantations on these islands are all within such easy reach of the sea that transportation offers little difficulty. Both horses and mules thrive quite well on the islands, and these, coupled with bullock carts and some 1,000 miles of light plantation railway running out to the piers, render unnecessary the portorage that constitutes such a problem for cocoa planters in every other colony in West Africa.

In the German colonies cocoa growing is extending rapidly and, from a financial point of view, satisfactorily. The German administration in Kamerun has appeared to favor such enterprises mainly as European undertakings in which the natives are mere laborers until within recent years, when some effort has been made to encourage the natives by gifts of seed and young plants to have their own fields.

Togoland exported during 1911, 509,166 pounds of cocoa, valued at \$41,412, and during 1912, 623,862 pounds, valued at \$57,839; while the exports from Kamerun during 1910 amounted to 6,735,935 pounds, valued at \$538,875; during 1911, 7,897,876 pounds, valued at \$787,176; and during 1912, 10,034,534 pounds, valued at \$1,009,660. On account of the war other and later statistics are not available.

Purely a Native Industry in Gold Coast.

Cocoa cultivation in the Gold Coast is purely and solely a native industry, few of the plantations being more than 25 to 30 acres in extent and the majority not more than 2 to 5 acres. Few, if any, are owned by whites. The farms are not so close together as those of São Thomé, but the traveler can not walk many miles anywhere without passing through plantations of cocoa and palm trees. The atmospheric conditions resemble those of São Thomé and Príncipe, with a rainfall of 32 to 55 inches per annum; otherwise the territory is not so well watered as the Portuguese possessions. In spite of this, the colony can produce a quantity and quality of cocoa that compares well with other areas.

In 1891 the first lot (80 pounds) taken by the native to a white trader brought \$19.46; 24 years later this 80-pound shipment had grown to 119,593,600 pounds, valued at \$10,674,768. The whole of this, be it remembered, is a native industry. The Gold Coast natives are justly proud of their enterprise and assert that they will not cease extending their plantations until every acre they can cultivate is producing cocoa.

Transportation in Gold Coast.

Not the least interesting spectacle in the Gold Coast is the transport of cocoa, the bulk of the inland produce being carried by porters

to the rail head. Sometimes the roadways as far as the eye can see are one long line of cocoa bags on the heads of hundreds of carriers. This carrying trade has produced an extraordinary flow of free labor into the whole hinterland of the Gold Coast. At Adawso, a buying station nearly 15 miles from the rail head, one firm alone employs in the season 3,000 carriers, who cover the distance to the rail station at Pakro once and frequently twice a day with a 150-pound bag of cocoa.

The fame of the Gold Coast carrier traffic has spread far into the northern regions of the country, with the result that the recognized caravan routes now come right down through the Northern Territories. These carriers, many of them from around and even beyond Lake Chad, drive herds of cattle down to the Gold Coast colony about harvest time. They sell the cattle and then carry cocoa for the season. When the main harvest is over and there is little cocoa carrying, they purchase loads of kola nuts, which they take back with them to the far interior and sell en route at a considerable profit.

The transport of cocoa being chiefly in the hands of alien labor, should its flow cease from any cause whatever the cocoa industry would suffer a check from which it would take some time to recover. The coastal regions are fairly secure, for most of the districts within 20 miles of the coast are reached by a daily service of motor lorries under the management of the European cocoa-buying firms.

"Barrel Rolling"—Exports from Gold Coast.

Many of the native farmers within 30 miles of Acera, however, prefer to sell their cocoa at a higher price at the port of embarkation, and so have created the interesting system of "barrel rolling." In the cocoa season strongly bound and ponderous casks are filled with the beans and rolled to the seashore. Traveling along the somewhat primitive roads one meets at frequent intervals perspiring natives struggling with the barrel which, filled with cocoa, weighs considerably over a quarter of a ton. As a rule three men roll two casks, one relieving the other. Therefore it is evident that there is a transport problem for the producers, large consignments of cocoa being sometimes lost for lack of means of transportation.

It appears to be the policy of the Gold Coast government to keep the industry in the hands of the natives and to allow the traders to be—as they have always been—the "middlemen" between the producers and the European importers and manufacturers. The government assists the natives, in every possible way, through competent agricultural instructors.

The principal harvest months are from October to January; it is thus easily seen how the exports for 12 months ending December 31 may show considerable fluctuations from year to year. Although the quantity exported in 1912 (86,568,481 pounds) was less than in 1911, the value was about \$150,000 more, due to the higher prices ruling in the European markets. In 1913 exports jumped to 113,239,980 pounds, value \$12,112,535, and in 1914 totaled 119,593,600 pounds, value \$10,674,768.

Rapid Growth of Nigerian Industry.

The Government reports of 12 years ago gave little hope that the natives of Nigeria would become cocoa farmers, but Africa is the

land of surprises. The Acting Secretary of Southern Nigeria, in writing his 1903 report from Old Calabar, said:

It is not in the nature of the average West African to lay out capital for which there is no immediate return. He can understand the yam growing at his door; he can understand the cask of oil to be filled before his boys can return with the required cloth, pipe, or frock coat, but he will not sow for his son to reap, nor will a village work, of its own initiative, for the benefit of the next generation that is to occupy it.

The very next year the acting governor was enabled to write, "There has been an enormous development in cocoa"; and the Southern Nigerian natives, as if in unconscious protest against the 1903 report, poured into the European markets over 1,000,000 pounds of cocoa beans. Two years later exports rose to 1,500,000 pounds. In 1913, 8,111,920 pounds, value \$766,140, were exported; in 1914, 11,062,989 pounds, value \$835,564.

Methods of Cultivation in Nigeria—Other Africa.

The Nigerian Customs and Trade Journal presented some interesting remarks on the cultivation of cocoa in Nigeria. It states:

The methods of cultivation, generally, by the native producers leave much room for improvement, and it is estimated that only about one-third of the crop is harvested. An attempt is being made by the agricultural department of the colony to remedy this by affording, as far as possible, continuous supervision and advice in the planting at proper intervals, care of the plants, etc., and in the adoption of methods to prevent diseases to which the plants are liable.

It is not realized by the producer that with the exercise of greater care in the drying and curing of the bean an enhanced value can be obtained. A model fermentation and curing house has been erected at the Calabar experiment station, with a view to treating the produce for the natives before disposal to the European firms.

British West Africa's exports within 12 years have multiplied something like 21 times, i. e., in round figures from about 2,600 tons in 1903 to over 56,000 tons in 1914.

The climatic conditions and soil of Liberia are excellent for cocoa as well as for coffee. American capital could be well and profitably interested therein in cocoa farms.

Spacing and Yield—Labor.

Cocoa grows apparently with greater ease in West Africa than within any other cocoa-producing area in the world. The elaborate systems of manuring that seem imperative in most tropical colonies are not practiced by the West African producer. He piles the fermenting husks in heaps, and then, when thoroughly decayed, throws the refuse around the base of the trees.

Government authorities, especially in British West Africa, advise wide spacing—15 feet—but the natives plant close, claiming, with some reason, that it better conserves the moisture of the soil. Neither in the Gold Coast nor in Southern Nigeria do many planters space farther apart than 8 feet. Many crowd 500 to 700 trees upon a single acre. The plantations in British West Africa being almost entirely in the hands of the natives, statistics are unreliable upon the annual output per acre. One official estimates that the natives obtain about 7 pounds per tree per annum. This is regarded as very high. A native farmer in Southern Nigeria with 100,000 trees, about one-half bearing, obtained from 50,000 trees 30 tons of cocoa, an average of 1½ pounds.

As a rule there is plenty of cheap labor in each of the West African colonies, but the services rendered are "cheap," too. In Fernando Po one man per acre is employed. In the British colonies the native and his family are all employed, but one man per acre here could do the work with ease. One man ought to be able to attend as much as 5 acres.

SUGAR SITUATION IN SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Oct. 30.]

According to the "Revista de Economía y Hacienda," published in Madrid to-day, 9,106,885 kilos (10,040 short tons) of beet sugar have been produced between July 1 and October 1 of the present year. The output for the corresponding period of 1914 was 6,412,552 kilos (7,069 short tons). In addition to this a royal decree has been signed ordering the direct purchase from Germany of 400 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds) of sugar-beet seed to be shipped to the Director General of Customs of Spain. This officer will distribute the seed among the various consignees. It is believed that this amount of seed is sufficient to plant the crop for 1916. Its exportation from Germany was authorized by that country, and it is hoped that still more may be liberated.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 30.]

Increased Consumption Beneficial to Industry.

The reduction of the Spanish Government tax on sugar, which went into effect in July, 1914, resulted in a marked increase in the annual domestic consumption, from 120,000 metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each to an estimated amount of 145,000 tons. This rise in consumption was highly beneficial to the sugar industry in Spain and incidentally to dependent agricultural interests. In a recent assembly of Spanish sugar manufacturers it was decided that each factory should increase its output by 30 per cent, so that during the remainder of the year 51,000 tons will be provided over and above the estimated consumption in Spain for 1915.

On the other hand, the prices of the raw material required in sugar production have increased, to the detriment of the manufacturer. Formerly sugar-beet seed coming from Germany cost 1 peseta (\$0.18) per kilo (2.2046 pounds), whereas it now costs 1.65 pesetas (\$0.29).

Customs Statistics of Production and Distribution.

The Spanish customs service publishes the following statement as to the production and distribution of sugar during corresponding periods of the years 1914 and 1915, by which it will be seen that the quantity on hand in the factories on June 30, 1915, was 61,548 tons less than at the corresponding time in 1914:

Items.	1914	1915
	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>
Sugar in factories Jan. 1	102,574	108,487
Sugar produced up to June 1.....	69,870	29,155
Total.....	172,144	137,642
Distributed since Jan. 1	55,516	82,502
Sugar on hand June 30	116,628	55,080

POTATO QUARANTINE AGAINST POWDERY SCAB REMOVED.

The Federal quarantine against shipment from foreign countries of Irish potatoes affected with powdery scab is removed by an order of the Department of Agriculture, effective January 1, 1916. This permits a number of potato-producing countries to resume shipment of potatoes to the United States. In the case of Canada, the new order, in addition to removing the quarantine, provides that potatoes may be shipped in without certification by Canadian officials, under an arrangement with the Canadian Minister of Agriculture that Canada will offer for export to the United States only potatoes free from injurious diseases and insect pests.

The removal of the foreign quarantine for powdery scab follows the lifting of the domestic quarantine against this disease September 1, 1915.

Although this quarantine is removed, the regulations governing the entry of potatoes and providing for inspection at ports of entry are continued in force. These regulations provide for an adequate field inspection by recognized experts in the countries where shipments originate, and that such countries must maintain effective quarantines against entry into their territory of potatoes from any country under quarantine by the United States on account of the potato-wart disease. The inspection at the ports of entry of this country is believed to be adequate to prevent the entry into this country of objectionally diseased potatoes.

The quarantine against certain countries on account of the potato-wart disease, promulgated September 12, 1912, remains in full force and effect.

The restriction against the entry of foreign potatoes into Porto Rico is removed entirely, as it is represented that there is no potato industry in that territory, nor is there likely to be any in the future to be harmed by the entry of foreign potatoes.

Special regulations covering the export of potatoes from the States of Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico, and from the Island of Santo Domingo provide that shipments will be permitted entry only through certain designated ports in the United States and after the issuance of a permit in accordance with department regulations.

147,000 VOLUNTEER AS CROP REPORTERS.

Nearly 150,000 volunteer crop reporters and special correspondents are now aiding the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture in the preparation of its estimates of crops and live-stock production of the country, according to the annual report of the bureau which has just been issued. The actual number of these volunteer assistants is 147,327. In addition, there are 151 paid employees in the service of the bureau. The total appropriation for the work for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, was \$275,580.

The report also calls attention to the fact that the crop figures formerly published in the "Agricultural outlook" are now printed in the "Monthly crop report."

The bureau has enlarged its work during the fiscal year by assigning one of its employees to the work of investigating truck crops.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COPPER.

The imports and exports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended December 11, 1915, follow:

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Ore, matte and regulus (copper contents).		Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.	
	Pounds.		Pounds.	
Canada.....	1,169,932	\$99,652	732,430	\$125,634
Panama.....	200	40		
Cuba.....	431,200	73,416		
Chile.....	646,579	71,587	294,000	52,920
Peru.....	213,628	45,012	3,829,333	689,301
Venezuela.....	116,400	20,216		
Chosen.....	36,812	2,945		
Total.....	2,614,751	312,868	4,855,763	868,055

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

Countries.			Countries.		
Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.			Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.		
Pounds			Pounds		
France.....	5,599,216	\$1,056,731	Argentina.....	2,998	\$798
Italy.....	4,282,917	793,906	Brazil.....	22,700	4,345
Netherlands.....	335,852	72,447	Chile.....	10,236	1,028
Russia in Europe.....	224,143	49,670	Colombia.....	13,866	4,321
Sweden.....	1,837,526	348,211	British Guiana.....	2,609	458
England.....	2,037,492	481,594	Peru.....	1,079	254
Scotland.....	716,979	136,032	Uruguay.....	231	61
Canada.....	4,255	913	Venezuela.....	284	55
Central America.....	4,471	982	Dutch East Indies.....	75,318	5,306
Mexico.....	516	132	British South Africa.....	4,393	948
British West Indies.....	1,481	255			
Cuba.....	8,474	1,522	Total.....	15,793,210	2,962,163
Haiti.....	1,074	239			

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do. 31	Do.
Peck, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Bueno: Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(e) Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Chamblain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Cannjoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

METAL LEAF AND BRONZE POWDER IN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Oct. 22.]

There should be a good market for American metal leaf and bronze powders in southern India at the present time. Brass leaf and gold leaf not only are used by printers and lithographers, but have a good sale at bazaars for other purposes, particularly for certain gilded ornaments, of which natives of India are very fond.

The amount of metal leaf imported into Madras Presidency is not shown separately in customs statistics, but the following figures, based on a table showing the gross amount of customs duty received by customhouses in the Presidency upon the principal articles of merchandise subject to duty during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, is believed to be a correct statement of the value of imports for that year: Gold leaf, \$766; European brass, residue and leaves, \$1,064; brass, patent or yellow metal sheets, etc., new, \$869,410; brass, patent or yellow metal sheets, etc., old, \$9,882; brass sheets, flat or in rolls, \$1,071; brass wire, \$3,815; brass, all other sorts, \$9,006. Countries of origin are not stated, but the United Kingdom and Germany were the principal sources of supply. The rate of duty is 5 per cent.

These figures represent only a part of the imported metal leaf consumed in southern India, for bazaars in the interior, particularly in the large native state of Hyderabad, undoubtedly obtain some of their supply from Calcutta and Bombay. Hyderabad has a reputation for its embroideries in silk and gold and its silver tissues.

Limes Gilded with Brass and Gold Leaf.

One of the interesting uses to which brass leaf is applied in southern India is for gilding limes, the decorated fruit, according to a local custom, being exchanged by natives on festival occasions in token of esteem. The origin of this practice is apparently unknown, but it dates from a distant period and is a recognized feature of Indian life. The exchange of limes takes place on New Year's days, of which there are several in this country. Besides the English anniversary observed by the natives, the Mohammedans and the Tamil and Telugu branches of the Hindus have special New Year's days. A native calling on New Year's Day on a person to whom he or she desires to show esteem presents the host with a lime. In the case of the well to do the lime is always ornamented with brass leaf or, in a few cases, with gold leaf. The poorer classes, as a rule, give undecorated limes. The custom sometimes extends also to the ordinary "tamash" or social reunion. Thus, a good deal of brass leaf is used for gilded limes and the bazaar trade in this line throughout southern India is really considerable. The leaf is also used to some extent in the manufacture of gilded caps or "topi," worn generally by Mohammedans in southern India on their holidays and for decorations on the dresses of Mohammedan women.

Printing Establishments Offer Good Market.

Printing establishments are numerous in southern India in proportion to the size of the educated population. All enterprises of this sort, even if combining printing and lithographing, are described in official publications as printing presses. There are 3 Government printing presses at Madras, employing 1,860 persons, and 22 other printing presses in the Presidency (all but 3 of which

are in the city of Madras), employing 3,857 persons. Local custom and taste, particularly of the natives, tends to the use of a good deal of gold leaf in the printing of book covers. The educated classes of natives are fond of writing books and like to have the volumes well bound, with gold lettering on covers and gilt edging on outer surfaces. In Madras much of this work is done with gold leaves instead of by the modern deposit battery used generally in the United States. The supply of leaf in Madras formerly came largely from Germany, but trade with that country having ceased, imports from the United States would doubtless be accepted on favorable terms. Imported books of gold leaf of 24 pages, which before the war sold at 45 cents each, are now selling at 49 cents, retail price. Brass books of same size are selling retail in the bazaars at 9 cents.

Although gold is mined in this country, it is not manufactured here, but is exported.

Use of Bronze Powders.

Bronze powders are not designated in the customhouse returns, and the amount imported is therefore not ascertainable; but it is believed that a considerable amount of this product enters into use for die stamps and letterheads. Stationery with stamped letterheads or with monograms and coats of arms in bronze color is popular among certain people.

Terms should be quoted c. i. f. Madras. If possible, samples should be sent or an agency established. Reasonable credit is extended to European firms, who often act as intermediaries for native firms with regard to imports.

[A list of the printing and lithographing establishments in Madras and the names of a few commission agents or bazaar dealers most likely to be interested in imports of brass from the United States may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 69485.]

RUSSIAN MANGANESE INDUSTRY IN 1914.

[Weekly Bulletin, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Dec. 6.]

The Journal of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce (Petrograd) states that 730,310 short tons of Caucasian manganese ore were extracted during 1914, or 338,415 tons less than in 1913. The exports of Caucasian manganese ore by rail from the mines in 1914 were 787,655 tons, or 461,790 tons less than in 1913. The quantity of ore put on the market during 1914 was 788,216 tons, against 1,188,600 tons in 1913. The exports of Caucasian ore by Poti and Batum in 1914 were 489,005 tons and 299,210 tons, respectively, representing decreases from the exports in 1913 of 216,025 and 184,355 tons. The proportions of manganese ore exported and used for home consumption are 98½ and 1½ per cent, respectively, 771,315 tons being sent abroad and 11,900 tons being sent to the home markets. The quantities exported to the various countries during the first six months of 1914 and during the whole year were as follows: Germany, 328,610 tons in the first six months of 1914 and 365,410 tons in the whole year; Belgium, 145,245 tons and 172,925 tons during the two periods; United Kingdom, 93,965 and 119,820 tons; United States, 38,570 and 38,675 tons; Austria-Hungary, 35,985 and 36,310 tons; France, 26,815 tons for both periods, there being no exports to that country during the second half year.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Sawmill machinery, No. 19627.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a business man desires to correspond with manufacturers of sawmill machinery, especially handsaws.

Electric light bulbs, pumps, and apparatus, No. 19628.—A report from an American consular officer states that a man in Spain desires to act as agent for firms manufacturing electrical goods, such as electric bulbs of $\frac{1}{2}$ watt from 50 to 500 candlepower, for voltage of 110 and 220. It is stated that the inquirer can sell from 8,000 to 10,000 per month. Prices and terms are also requested for metal filament bulbs from 10 to 50 candlepower, for which there is a sale of about 25,000 per month. An agency is also desired for electric pumps and apparatus. Catalogues and correspondence should be in Spanish, but prices, if possible, should be in francs. References are given.

Dry goods, rubber goods, groceries, etc., No. 19629.—A firm in Argentina informs an American consular officer that it desires to represent manufacturers of dry goods, rubber goods, groceries, aluminum and other metals in sheets, etc. References are given. Correspondence may be in English.

Undershirts, No. 19630.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a manufacturer's agent desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of silk undershirts for women. Correspondence may be in English.

Chiropodist's tools, No. 19631.—A man in Spain desires to receive prices, catalogues, and terms for complete sets of chiropodist's tools and text books relative to same. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Hardware, tinplate, wire, etc., No. 19632.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that a business man in his district desires to extend his agencies and would like to correspond with manufacturers of hardware in general, tinplate, wire of all kinds, binder twine, strong yarn for sewing canvas, awnings, etc.; hosiery and knit goods for men and women; and fine shoe leather. Bank references are given. Correspondence may be in Spanish or English.

Hosiery, No. 19633.—A manufacturer's agent, selling only to the wholesale trade, informs an American consular officer in Canada that he desires to correspond with manufacturers of cashmere hosiery for men, women, and children. The inquirer states that he can place \$50,000 worth of these goods.

Hides and goatskins, etc., No. 19634.—A report from an American consular officer in China states that a firm in his district desires to export cow and buffalo hides, goatskins, and raw silk. Bank references are given. Correspondence may be in English.

Chemicals, cotton thread, notions, etc., No. 19635.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a man desires to represent manufacturers of chemicals, cotton thread, notions, such as needles, pins, etc.; paper and paper goods, celluloid goods, and leather and leather goods. It is requested that correspondence giving complete information be sent. Correspondence may be in English. References are given.

Grease for soap, pitch-rosin, and caustic soda, No. 19636.—A letter to the Bureau states that a man in Cuba desires to purchase grease for the manufacture of soap, pitch-rosin, and caustic soda.

Glazed paper, No. 19637.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in China desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of glazed paper of all colors. Samples of the paper desired and further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 83.)

Machinery for manufacturing lead pencils, No. 19638.—A letter to the Bureau from a foreign consular officer states that inquiries have been made by business men in Mexico for names of manufacturers of machinery used in making lead pencils, and coffee and sugar sacks.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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EIGHT-HOUR LAW IN URUGUAY.

[Consul Herman L. Spahr, Montevideo, Nov. 23.]

An act has just been passed and published limiting the actual labor of workmen and employees in Uruguay to a maximum of eight hours daily. It applies to workmen in factories, shops, yards, quarries, etc., to employees or servants of industrial or commercial establishments, and of railway and street car lines, and in general to all persons engaged in tasks similar to those mentioned. Employees in Government work are not exempt. The hours of adults may be increased in special cases, but not to exceed 48 hours for each six days of work.

For every workman violating the law the employer shall be fined \$10 the first time and \$15 for each repetition. The workmen shall be fined the amount received for the excess work, but the fine shall not exceed the excess of one month.

Twenty-five inspectors, controlled by the labor office, are to enforce the act. Inspectors in the Department of Montevideo will each receive \$1,800 per annum, and those in the other departments will be paid \$960.

The act will go into effect three months from date of passage.

RESULTS OF CONFERENCE ON ELECTRICAL SAFETY CODE.

The results of the conference held in New York to discuss and approve the national electrical safety code have stamped the meeting as undoubtedly the most important of its kind ever held in connection with the electrical industries. The United States Bureau of Standards estimates that very great good was accomplished—first, because of the valuable discussion and critical study made of the code; second, because of the educational influence it had upon the engineers in attendance, many of whom are leaders in their profession; third, because it brought about a more complete understanding of the methods of the Bureau of Standards in carrying on such work, and a higher appreciation of the quality of the work which has been done on the code.

Some of the engineers expected to show that many of the provisions of the code were unnecessary or too severe, but in most cases the result

of the discussion was to establish more firmly that the provisions of the code were reasonable and had been very well considered.

The conference was attended by a large number of engineers representing the utilities companies of the country, including light and power interests, steam and electric railways, telegraph and telephone companies, and the manufacturers. Six engineers came from the Pacific coast to attend the meeting, one representing the Industrial Accident Commission of California, and the others five of the largest power companies on the coast. There was an average attendance of 50 or 60 men at all the meetings in New York, a total of 85 having been in attendance during the two weeks.

In relation to the safety code, the conclusion was reached that further work would be necessary in developing some of the details, particularly with respect to the grades of construction required under different climatic conditions. The records of the Weather Bureau are being searched for information that will give a satisfactory basis for classification of different cities of the country according to the severity of their weather conditions with respect to wind and ice, but unfortunately the records are not very complete.

FINANCIAL MEASURES IN AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT.

Copies of four acts passed by the Australian Federal Parliament, relating to loans and other financial matters, have been received from Consul General J. I. Brittain at Sydney, and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices (refer to file No. 69649). These measures are:

No. 22 of 1915.—An act to authorize the borrowing of money from the Government of the United Kingdom.

No. 23 of 1915.—An act to authorize the raising and expending of the sum of £1,500,000 (£=\$4.8665) for the construction of a railway from Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta.

No. 25 of 1915.—An act to amend the treasury bills act of 1914.

No. 26 of 1915.—An act to amend the commonwealth inscribed stock act, 1911-1913.

[Extract from Melbourne Age, Nov. 5, by Commercial Attaché William C. Downs.]
Financial Statement Made by Treasurer.

In the House of Representatives yesterday the new treasurer (Mr. Higgs) made a brief financial statement setting out the means by which it is proposed to meet the obligations of the year. The statement showed that the ordinary revenue, plus the loan from the British Government and that raised in Australia, will still leave a sum of £23,779,000 to be borrowed. Of this amount it is proposed to borrow £18,000,000 forthwith, and the balance early next year.

The treasurer submitted the actual receipts for the year 1914-15, and the estimates for 1915-16, as given by Mr. Fisher in his statement of August 12 last. The estimated ordinary revenue for 1915-16 was £26,540,000; to this had to be added £10,400,000 from Imperial loan, and £13,389,000 from the recent Australian loan. This left £23,779,000 still to be raised to meet the full estimated expenditure of the year=£74,108,000. Mr. Higgs mentioned that the customs and excise revenue for the four months ended October 31 was £5,311,000, as compared with £5,433,000 received in a similar period last year. The decrease was £121,263, an amount comparatively small.

MOTION PICTURES IN HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Nov. 11.]

There is but one motion-picture establishment in the Tegucigalpa consular district, viz, the Teatro de Variedades, in this city. A number of causes combine to prevent the industry from being more successful, among which are poor transportation facilities, the small purchasing power of the masses, the sparse population generally, and the lack of electric service in all the other interior towns.

In this city performances are given three or four nights per week, commencing at 8.30 or 9 p. m. and lasting until midnight or after. Approximately 1,500 meters (about 4,900 feet) of film are shown nightly. The prices of admission vary with the quality of the film. Old films, of the regular stock sketches, are sometimes displayed at prices ranging from 10 to 30 cents United States currency, depending on the location of the seats. Other nights, when such well-known films as "Les Misérables" are run, the prices are trebled; and for ordinary new films the usual charge is about 50 cents for the best seats.

Local Firms Interested—A Field Worth Investigating.

No attempt has been made here to try continuous performances or the "tanda" idea of Mexico. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 3, 1915.] The Tegucigalpa consulate has been endeavoring to interest persons in establishing small theaters with popular-price continuous performances. One firm, which is equipping a restaurant with a Japanese garden, has asked to be informed about films and accessories, and another firm has inquired for apparatus which can be operated by a portable light for use in towns where there is no electric service. With outfits of that sort a service might be established in some eight or ten towns within a reasonable radius of this city. The local theater rents its films from Panama on a basis of 50 per cent of the receipts. So onerous is this charge that the question naturally arises, why would it not pay some American manufacturer to send a representative to tour Central America and contract with the established theaters for film service? There are probably 20 or more theaters in the five Republics that could use films for an average of 20 programs per month, and one central office, say in Guatemala City, could attend to the distribution and service generally. The writer has no positive knowledge of conditions outside of the Tegucigalpa consular district except as told by the owner of the local theater, but the latter is greatly interested in the development of some such plan and states unequivocally that such a project is much needed and could be made very successful.

All Classes of Films are Popular.

All classes of pictures are popular, including comic, tragic, cowboy, chases, historical, war, and detective stories. Perhaps the most popular are Wild West scenes, where feats of horsemanship and quick gun play are generous components. All reading matter should be in Spanish.

[The addresses of three Tegucigalpa firms interested in motion-picture apparatus or films may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices. Refer to file No. 60500.]

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he has received in stock during the week ended December 18 the following new publications, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

Official Register of the United States (1915 directory), commonly known as the Blue Book.—List, arranged alphabetically, of employees of the United States Government, exclusive of the Postal Service, giving names, salaries, from where appointed, etc.; containing in addition thereto an outline of the organization of the executive departments, legislative branch, the judiciary, etc., giving names of principal officers, etc. Price, cloth, \$1.50.

United States Mining Statutes, Annotated, Mines Bureau Bulletin 94, two parts.—Part 1 covers sections and statutes relating to metalliferous mining and coal mining; Part 2 covers miscellaneous mining subjects, a codification and annotation to date of the congressional enactments relating to mining. Price, cloth, \$2.50 per set.

Directory of American Sawmills. Miscellaneous Series 27, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—List of sawmills in the United States arranged alphabetically by States. Price, paper, 25 cents.

Trade Directory of Central America and the West Indies. Miscellaneous Series 22, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Directory of business houses in Central America, arranged alphabetically by countries and industries. Price, cloth, 60 cents.

Commercial Organizations in Southern and Western Cities. Special Agents Series 79, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—A discussion in detail of the characteristic work of the several commercial associations in States in the South and West. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Commercial Laws of England, Scotland, Germany, and France. Special Agents Series 97, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Covers administration of justice in the various countries as far as the interests of Americans are concerned, giving jurisdiction of courts, lawyers, and fees, courts, etc. Price, paper, 15 cents.

Banking Opportunities in South America. Special Agents Series 106, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Comprehensive review of the banking situation in South America. Price, paper, 20 cents.

A Trade School for Girls. A Preliminary Investigation in a Typical Manufacturing City, Worcester, Mass. Education Bureau Bulletin 17, 1913.—A study of the needs and possibilities of industrial training in Worcester, Mass., covering the method of investigation, industrial opportunities, etc. Price, paper, 10 cents.

The Acarina or Mites. A Review of the Group, for the Use of Economic Entomologists, Agriculture Department Report 108.—Comprehensive classification of the acarina, with a descriptive introduction, accompanied by many illustrations. Price, paper, 30 cents.

Australasian Markets for American Lumber. Special Agents Series 109, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Report on the native timber resources, imports of foreign timber, condition of market, trade, exports, tariff, and various uses of lumber in Australia and New Zealand. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Tests of Corn Varieties on the Great Plains. Agriculture Department Bulletin 307.—Covering limitations, adaptability of varieties, tests of varieties, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Methods for the Examination of Bituminous Road Materials. Agriculture Department Bulletin 314.—Practical work by road experts, covering the scheme of examination, methods, and apparatus used. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Renovation of Worn-out Soils. Farmers' Bulletin 245.—Covers differences in natural fertility, nature of the soil, mineral foods, nitrogen contents, moisture, air, terracing, and methods of improvement. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Alfalfa. Farmers' Bulletin 339.—Comprehensive work on the cultivation of alfalfa, covering history, distribution, possibilities, cultivation, fertilization, utilization, and feeding value, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

The Use of Concrete on the Farm. Farmers' Bulletin 461.—Practical work on selection of materials, proportions, measuring, mixing, tools used, etc. Price, 5 cents.

Methods of Analyzing the Farm Business. Farmers' Bulletin 661.—Outlines a method for analyzing the farm business to determine investment, receipts, expenses, labor, income, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Concrete Construction on Live-stock Farm. Farmers' Bulletin 481.—Giving practical information relative to the use of concrete in the construction of stables and other buildings on live-stock farms. Price, paper, 5 cents.

TRADE OF MADAGASCAR FOR SIX MONTHS.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave.]

According to the customs statistics furnished the Tamatave, Madagascar, consulate by the local customs service, the total trade of Madagascar for the first six months of 1915 amounted to \$8,256,524, compared with \$10,713,639 in the corresponding period in 1914. The imports decreased in value from \$5,671,154 for the 1914 period to \$2,884,429 for the 1915 period, but the exports increased in value from \$5,042,485 in the first six months of 1914 to \$5,372,095 for the 1915 period.

Principal Articles of Import and Export.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported and exported during the first six months of 1915 compared with the corresponding period in 1914:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1914.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1914.	Jan.-June, 1915.
IMPORTS.			IMPORTS—continued.		
Cotton goods	\$1,706,697	\$859,734	Flour	\$91,307	\$14,975
Ordinary wine	194,895	155,952	EXPORTS.		
Tin articles.....	(a)	114,272	Hides.....	1,295,863	1,308,499
Clothing.....	138,432	100,290	Preserved, frozen, and salt-		
Petroleum and gasoline.....	45,691	93,940	ed meats.....	344,489	849,340
Chemical products.....	37,477	88,423	Gold dust.....	611,875	623,049
Machinery.....	275,215	87,056	Vanilla beans.....	197,368	452,364
Paper and paper goods.....	(a)	80,242	Dried vegetables (chiefly		
Cement.....	57,139	66,588	lima beans).....	355,526	366,564
Sugar.....	(a)	66,577	Rice.....	40,673	301,722
Metal other than ironmongery	362,168	60,900	Raffia.....	300,726	194,067
Ironmongery.....	62,097	42,402	Beeswax.....	265,055	206,562
Shoes.....	89,967	32,717	Lard.....	192,878	195,005

^a Figures not given.

Increase in Trade with United States.

Notwithstanding the 49 per cent decrease in the general imports of the colony in the first six months of 1915, compared with the corresponding period in 1914, the imports of United States origin were valued at \$135,179, compared with \$45,960, in the first six months of 1914, and \$106,895 for the calendar year 1914. The exports to the United States were valued at \$39,033, compared with \$26,515 in the first six months of 1914.

The principal articles imported from the United States in the first six months of 1915 were: Cotton piece goods, valued at \$37,773, against no imports for the same period in 1914; petroleum and heavy mineral oil, \$77,397 against \$39,071; tin plate for making meat and lard boxes, and empty petroleum cans, \$14,591 against \$12,653; other metal articles, \$5,030 against \$2,126.

The principal articles exported to the United States in the first six months of 1915 were: Vanilla, 6 tons, valued at \$22,589, against no exports in the first six months of 1914; graphite, 168 tons, valued at \$9,728, against 103 tons, valued at \$7,975; raffia, 56 tons, valued at \$5,932, against 30 tons, valued at \$3,128.

BRAZILIAN WOODS.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 24.]

It is a remarkable fact that the immense forest resources of the country remain almost unexploited. Not only are the vast forests of the Republic nowhere systematically worked, but, if reports are to be believed, they are in places still being ruthlessly sacrificed for common, everyday uses. Many of the railroads burn wood and make little or no selection of what valuable trees they fell for fuel; forest fires are still frequent, the farmer often finding this a cheap and practical means of clearing new plantation land. While some effort has been made to establish forest-conservation laws (the State of Parana was apparently the first to move in this direction, and other States as well as the Federal Government followed suit), little seems thus far to have been accomplished.

Valuable Woods for Ties—Little Native Wood for Pulp or Paving.

The Brazilian railroads, whose consumption of ties has been estimated at 1,500,000 per annum, the life of each tie being 5 to 6 years, use for this purpose such woods as *faveiro*, *jacaranda* (rosewood), and *peroba mirim*, which, like much of the timber employed as fuel by the railroads, would command high prices abroad could they be brought to the sea for exportation. The greater part of the paper consumed in Brazil is imported; although there exists a native paper industry, it furnishes little of what paper is used, and imports its paper pulp in large quantities from abroad. Some effort seems to have been made by certain municipalities to introduce wooden-block street paving, but this has never become common, although here again would be a clearly indicated use for many of the excellent woods of the country.

Exports of Various Hardwoods for Five Years.

The exportation of Brazilian hardwoods to foreign countries has suffered considerably from the inaccessibility of many of the forest tracts and the general high cost of labor. In certain of the individual States of Brazil taxes upon exports, production, trading rights, etc., may also have played their part in raising the cost of this article of export.

The following table shows, in kilos of 2.2046 pounds, the exports of various kinds of Brazilian woods to different countries during the last five years:

Countries and kinds of wood.	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Argentina:					
Cedro.....			640		
Pine (boards).....	53,137	108,651	83,655	380,940	212,205
Other.....	28,450	189,496	207,288	586,615	879,120
	84,923	1,016	1,315.	1,799	834
Belgium:					
Jacaranda.....			27,602	18,734	
Pao Brazil.....		20,000			
Sebastiao de arruda.....				207,060	
Other.....		10,000		96,802	188,000
France:					
Jacaranda.....	465,800	761,600	937,185	1,001,045	865,370
Sebastiao de arruda.....	100,698	105,883	162,098	421,452	8,420
Other.....	4,210	20,000	497,196	138,017	171,915
Germany:					
Cedro.....	330			500	
Gonçalo alves.....	2,000				
Jacaranda.....	595,531	420,636	507,093	535,790	886,700

• Pieces.

Countries and kinds of wood.	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Germany—Continued.					
Massaranduba			44,000		
Pao Brazil	83,066	209,018	34,421		
Sebastiao de arruda	123,020	2,600	28,794	73,338	24,644
Other	199,350	1,166,673	610,540	288,029	625,498
Italy		60,292	193,650	34,532	
Netherlands:					
Cedro			32,000		
Other			52,600		
Paraguay:					
Cedro			184,020		
Other	a 2,811	a 12,849	a 7,173	a 7,917	a 4,037
Peru:					
Massaranduba		38,080			
Other	1,100	5,250	10,530		
Portugal:					
Acapu		8,472	10,896	6,896	
Jacaranda	297,923	89,000	36,000	42,478	67,942
Massaranduba	334,800	399,200	453,960	104,900	24,000
Other	33,360	61,943	41,123	30,653	122,420
United Kingdom:					
Jacaranda	51,913	182,556	274,296	123,884	114,820
Sebastiao de arruda	2,019				
Other	12	6,166	609,272	4,114	7,073
United States:					
Cedro	1,850				
Goncalo alves	3,830				
Jacaranda	1,111,224	715,123	858,854	741,759	1,194,100
Pao Brazil	53,400				
Sebastiao de arruda	8,864			15,410	
Other	89,820	a 407,739	3,259,703	28,875	78,378
Uruguay:					
Pine (boards)	51,814	84,966	78,785	60,102	84,892
Other	148,200	441,177	923,806	1,091,700	149,000
	a 5,984	a 120	a 33	a 40	a 260
Other countries	500		7,140		

a Pieces.

b In addition, 1,179 pieces of wood were exported to Italy in 1913.

c In addition, 10 pieces of wood were exported to the United States in 1911.

It is said that an important trade in Brazilian hardwoods was beginning to develop between Germany and other countries on the Continent.

Characteristics of Brazilian Woods.

Most Brazilian hardwoods appear to be dense and close-grained, compact and heavy. The colors vary from black to almost an ivory-white, passing through intermediate shades of red, brown, yellow, and violet. The fiber (grain) often reveals exquisite designs, and the proper sawing of a log has usually in reserve a series of surprises for the furniture manufacturer.

Below is given a table, furnished by the editors of *Le Brésil Économique*, showing the specific weights of the principal hardwoods of Brazil employed in construction work or in furniture making:

Acapu	1.067	Canella sassafráz	1.082
Angellm Amargoso	.954	Cangerana	.824
Angellm pedra	1.052	Carnahubelra	.982
Angico	.907	Cedro vermelho	.596
Araca pyranga	.997	Cedro rosa	.596
Arariba amarello	.870	Copahyba	1.078
Arariba rosa	.705	Faveiro	.948
Aroeira	1.219	Goncalo alves (courbaril)	1.033
Barbatimao	1.275	Grossahy-azeite	.953
Buranhon	.869	Guarajuba	.963
Cambuih preto	1.138	Guarantan	.908
Canella capitao-mor	.735	Guarauma	1.164
Canella parda	.764	Guantanbu legitimo	.797
Canella preta	.877	Inga-assu	.647

Ipe tabaco	1. 048	Pequea amarelo .....	. 871
Ipe una .....	. 785	Pequea marfim .....	. 836
Ipe perola .....	. 933	Peroba amarella .....	. 794
Itauba preta	1. 067	Peroba revessa .....	. 852
Jacaranda cabluna .....	. 872	Peroba rosa .....	. 929
Jacaranda rosa (bois de rose) ..	1. 196	Peroba tremida .....	. 823
Javaranda tan	1. 142	Pinho de Parana .....	. 585
Jacaranda violeta	1. 155	Sapucala assu	1. 001
Jatahy .....	. 902	Sapucala commum .....	. 893
Jaquitiba vermelho .....	. 665	Sapucala mirim	1. 032
Louro .....	. 923	Tajuba .....	. 953
Massaranduba grande	1. 079	Tapinhoan .....	. 997
Olty .....	. 792	Turaman .....	. 771
Oleo pardo .....	. 667	Ubatinga	1. 054
Oleo vermelho .....	. 954	Urindeva	1. 055
Pao Brazil	1. 185	Vinhatico amarelo .....	. 667
Pao ferro	1. 270	Vinhatico testa de boi .....	. 712

Favorite Woods—Prices and Freight Rates.

Most in use here is the peroba, found abundantly in the southern portions of the country. It is of a light yellowish red. The grain in one variety has a striped effect, suggestive of a tiger's markings. The gurabu, violet wood, or goncalo alves, is one of the most precious of the Brazilian woods, handsomer, even, to the Brazilian taste than the dark jacaranda, which is sold in considerable quantities to the United States. The oleo vermelho, copahyba, massaranduba, imbuia, canella, vinhatico, and many other woods have rich dark tones and handsome veinings, and are all favorites for making furniture as well as for parquet flooring. The variety of natural tints in these woods is remarkable.

These hardwoods are usually sold by the ton, the log being freed from bark by rough adzing. Prices vary considerably, but are usually high, from \$45 to \$60 being often paid per metric ton of 2,204.6 pounds.

Normal freight rates seem to have been \$6 to \$8 per metric ton, but they have now gone as high as \$18. There seems to be no reason why wood cargoes should not find much lower freights, provided they are ordered in sufficient quantities, upon the numerous American sailing ships that come here with coal and return in ballast or go to the River Plata for cargo.

The freight rates, per metric ton of 2,204.6 pounds, on lumber in southern Brazil from interior points to the coast and vice versa may be seen in the following table, compiled from the special freight tariff of the railroad, which was approved by the Ministry of Communication and Public Works on September 27, 1915:

1 to 50 kilometers (0.621 to 31.069 miles)	\$0. 0175 to \$0. 88
51 to 100 kilometers (31.69 to 62.137 miles) .....	. 89 to 1. 75
101 to 200 kilometers (62.758 to 124.274 miles)	1. 77 to 3. 25
201 to 300 kilometers (124.895 to 186.411 miles)	3. 26 to 4. 50
301 to 400 kilometers (187.032 to 248.548 miles)	4. 51 to 5. 50
401 to 500 kilometers (249.169 to 310.685 miles)	5. 51 to 6. 25
501 to 600 kilometers (311.306 to 372.822 miles)	6. 28 to 6. 75
601 to 700 kilometers (373.443 to 434.959 miles)	6. 78 to 7. 25
701 to 1,000 kilometers (435.580 to 621.37 miles)	7. 28 to 8. 70
1,001 to 1,500 kilometers (621.991 to 932.055 miles)	8. 75 to 10. 78
1,501 to 2,000 kilometers (932.676 to 1,242.74 miles)	10. 81 to 12. 43
2,001 to 2,691 kilometers (1,243.361 to 1,672.107 miles)	12. 46 to 14. 53

Samples Offered by Brazilian Dealer.

A Rio dealer in hardwoods [whose name may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices; refer

to File No. 67950] states that he has recently placed a cargo of jacaranda (50 tons) with an American firm; that his banking reference is the National City Bank, of New York; and that he is prepared to send upon request to any well-known American firm small samples, measuring 14 by 6 by 1 inch, of the woods most suitable for the firm's purposes. He is also prepared to accept orders by cable, payments to be made 50 or 60 per cent of the total against documents and the remainder after inspection of the cargo upon arrival. This house also offers to submit the logs prior to shipment, at the purchaser's expense, to any agent that the purchaser may himself designate at Rio de Janeiro.

Brazilian Business Men Conservative—Need of American Investments.

There has recently been some little excitement among lumber merchants here over the news that railway sleepers or ties are needed in large quantities in one of the belligerent countries of Europe and could be furnished by Brazil. Typical of the conservative attitude toward foreign business in general in the minds of a certain class of local business men is the statement credited in a recent issue of a Rio newspaper to a large owner of timberland to whom this proposition was submitted. After saying that Brazil could undoubtedly compete with other countries—notably the United States—in furnishing the required railroad ties, he expressed the belief that it would be very difficult, indeed, for Brazilians to fill any such order, because the buyers require that samples and prices shall be submitted at European ports, because the kinds of woods of which samples should be sent are so numerous, because of war risks, and because of the lack of guarantees to the exporter. He closes with the statement that unless 70 per cent of the price were laid down in advance nothing could be done.

This incident strengthens the opinion formerly expressed from this office that while native raw products abound here our importers can not obtain them under favorable conditions without in some sense associating themselves in a partnership with the Brazilian exporter. He often needs financial help, but he also needs instruction in American business methods. An incalculable amount of business can be done here, but, as in all other Latin-American countries, it can be done only by risking some capital. These are not "poor men's countries"; our American merchants can not merely trade here—they must invest here. And there is every reason why such investment, if carefully and reasonably made, should yield a return three or four times as great as in the United States.

[Two samples of Brazilian Imbuba board may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch offices, which will also supply a list of dealers in Brazilian woods. Refer to file No. 69138 for samples and 67950 for list.]

Samples of thread commonly sold in the Swatow (China) market have been received from Consul George C. Hanson at Swatow, and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 69077. A dispatch published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for December 11, 1915, told of the constantly increasing demand for foreign thread in Swatow and of existing interest in American thread.

STATUS OF UNITED STATES IN WORLD CACAO TRADE.

The United States is the world's largest consumer of cacao. In the twelvemonth ended June 30, 1915, this country imported 192,306,634 pounds of raw cocoa and reexported 28,979,054 pounds, making the apparent consumption 163,327,580 pounds. In the fiscal year 1914 the apparent consumption was 171,690,024 pounds; in 1913, 132,600,699 pounds; in 1912, 140,684,115 pounds; in 1911, 133,674,615 pounds; and in 1910, 103,859,251 pounds. Computed in the same manner, so far as available statistics will permit, the consumption of cacao beans and shells in certain European countries was:

Countries.	Imports.	Reexports.	Apparent consumption.
Belgium (special commerce):	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Calendar year, 1913.....	25,617,284	12,392,949	13,224,335
6 months ending with June, 1914.....	14,001,084	7,243,879	6,757,205
France (general commerce):			
Calendar year 1913.....	122,808,586	63,855,578	58,952,988
Calendar year 1914.....	135,215,584	62,523,999	72,691,585
9 months ending with September, 1915.....	70,330,929	35,558,214	34,772,715
German Customs Union* (general commerce):			
Calendar year 1913.....	144,926,216	33,106,709	111,819,507
Netherlands (special commerce):			
Calendar year 1913.....	103,197,015	21,270,229	71,926,786
Calendar year 1914.....	115,549,000	41,974,000	73,575,000
9 months ending with September, 1915.....	79,175,009	15,232,000	57,943,009
United Kingdom (general commerce):			
Calendar year, 1914.....	93,511,294	27,163,342	66,347,952
10 months ending with October, 1915.....	170,813,446	49,001,089	121,812,377

* The free ports of Hamburg, Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, and Goestemunde, the island of Helgoland, and a few frontier districts in Baden are not included in the German Customs Union.

Portugal's Position.

Portugal's cacao trade is almost wholly transit. In the calendar year 1912, while that Republic's special imports for consumption amounted to only 521,101 pounds, the reexports of cacao beans and shells totaled 93,406,874 pounds; in 1913 imports for consumption amounted to 583,648 pounds and reexports to 73,713,898 pounds; in the 7 months ending July, 1914, imports for consumption amounted to 405,170 pounds and reexports to 43,757,198 pounds.

From these figures it will be understood how important is Portugal's position in the world cacao trade. Portugal was one of the three countries (the other two being Ecuador and Brazil) that in 1911 attempted to valorize cacao along lines similar to those employed in the valorization scheme for Brazilian coffee; but the plan fell through, principally because, it is said, its originators overestimated the proportion of the world's supply contributed by the countries concerned.

Anomalous Conditions in Cacao Trade.

The cacao trade is one of anomalies. Practically none of the cacao is consumed in the countries in which it is produced; Hamburg handles more than any other one port (importing in 1913, 141,859,396 pounds of cacao beans and exporting 70,712,104 pounds), but prices are fixed at the London auctions; and while the United States is the largest consumer, it neither raises cacao nor fixes the price for the enormous quantities which it annually buys—and buys, it should be noted, in large measure direct from the producing countries. The United States purchased through Europe but 13 per cent of its total

supplies of raw cocoa in 1915, 22 per cent in 1914, 30 per cent in 1913, 21 per cent in 1912, 22 per cent in 1911, and 19 per cent in 1910.

This anomalous situation of direct purchases at Europe-regulated prices is due to the lack of an American cacao exchange. The need for such an institution is admitted by all the leading cacao users of the United States. There is no other commodity of like importance that does not have a regularly organized board of arbitration; and a regularly organized board of this kind would not only facilitate the settling of those disputes that inevitably arise in any trade, but once it was known that such a board existed greater care would be taken in the selection of cacao intended for the United States.

Permanent Board of Arbitration Suggested.

At present, when disputes arise between a broker and a manufacturer these two call in a third man and some agreement is then reached. In many cases this is unsatisfactory, and it seems to be the consensus of opinion that a permanent arbitration board should be established. It was suggested to a representative of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that this board should consist of seven members—three manufacturers, two brokers, and two merchants, to be chosen by the trade as a whole once a year.

With such a board in existence, the opinion has been expressed that New York would become the cacao center, as it has the coffee center, of the world. A small beginning has already been made, for in the year ended June 30, 1915, the United States reexported to other countries 28,979,054 pounds of raw cocoa, as contrasted with shipments totaling 4,577,622 pounds in 1914, 7,438,473 pounds in 1913, 5,284,830 pounds in 1912, 4,383,726 pounds in 1911, and 4,808,819 pounds in 1910. Even with this great gain (which can be ascribed to war conditions) the shipments form only an exceedingly small proportion of the total world trade. If the United States is ever to assume a leading position—and, as the world's chief consumer, such position is not a wildly impossible ambition—greater stability must first be given to American transactions through proper trade organization and through cooperation between the importers themselves.

American Imports During Last Six Years.

In this connection the extent and sources of the United States imports of crude cocoa during the last six fiscal years and the changes which the European war wrought in this trade in 1915 should be of special interest:

Imported from—	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Belgium.....	\$11,913	\$9,799	\$1,294			
France.....	66,199	60,720	97,892	\$97,639	\$47,830	
Germany.....	176,734	297,943	164,584	579,975	845,744	\$42,771
Netherlands.....	99,872	227,989	146,068	232,416	268,639	12,193
Portugal.....	1,375,674	2,141,183	2,062,966	2,962,644	2,292,999	512,270
England.....	462,118	668,215	1,028,004	1,538,225	1,633,424	2,578,996
Costa Rica.....	4,354	22,566	11,473	6,946	9,525	36,203
Nicaragua.....	3,355	3,334	1,856	1,248		5,787
Panama.....	3,252	6,823	3,156	12,433	12,637	69,932
Mexico.....	13	50	75	20,076	1,051	29,765
British West Indies:						
Jamaica.....		86,578	134,106	72,472	102,680	313,374
Trinidad and Tobago.....		3,670,886	3,795,771	3,494,424	4,801,574	4,489,456
Other.....	3,562,857	207,598	318,820	473,793	373,693	604,432
Cuba.....	123,150	75,065	147,244	329,836	328,642	517,939
Haiti.....	47,577	63,890	77,601	147,802	219,947	305,817

Imported from—	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Santo Domingo.....	\$2,054,809	\$2,330,732	\$2,886,995	\$3,068,655	\$3,187,006	\$5,499,510
Brazil.....	1,312,727	1,356,496	1,800,755	1,642,714	2,764,766	2,017,224
Colombia.....	45,064	635	1,705	6,132	16,864	38,190
Ecuador.....	1,085,078	2,024,572	2,143,005	1,606,263	2,693,674	3,351,797
Dutch Guiana.....	312,805	447,567	195,184	285,275	473,883	151,886
Venezuela.....	402,824	748,103	724,816	634,041	552,547	2,156,305
British East Indies.....	12,950	64,445	37,685	70,405	57,893	86,714
Dutch East Indies.....	199,724	45,391	119,545	62,711	19,469	49,358
Belgian Congo.....						9,909
British West Africa.....				3,633	888	1,629
All other countries.....	23,003	2,315	56	39,197	1,075	11,784
Total.....	11,376,061	14,552,879	15,931,566	17,339,042	20,797,790	22,993,211

The \$11,784 worth bought in 1915 from "all other countries" was made up of imports of crude cocoa from British Honduras, valued at \$2,424; Canada, \$343; Guatemala, \$36; Danish West Indies, \$100; Dutch West Indies, \$2,502; Chile, \$36; Peru, \$11; Australia, \$5,807; other British Oceania, \$181; and German Oceania, \$344.

American Reexports of Crude Cocoa.

The portion that was reexported and the countries of destination during the same six years were:

Foreign crude cocoa shipped to—	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Denmark.....						\$2,386,820
France.....	\$39,298	\$2,749	\$8,222	\$25,215	\$51,622	34,167
Germany.....	42,149	5,493	81,278	90,492	76,791	1,196
Greece.....						8,701
Italy.....						50,316
Netherlands.....	15,852	10,769	3,145	5,074	2,694	23,944
Norway.....						21,740
Portugal.....						10,358
Spain.....	100					15,300
Sweden.....						1,127,749
England.....	49,385	52,120	8,010	640	988	314,496
Canada.....	119,153	239,539	296,606	596,755	346,905	280,104
Mexico.....	159,972	126,329	148,822	273,827	62,851	15,724
Cuba.....	6,496	8,150	3,614	4,202	4,675	2,103
Argentina.....						12,305
Colombia.....	40,163	5,568	45,775	45,949	27,691	16,355
Australia and Tasmania.....	27,511	23,640	15,088	13,121	14,452	35,043
New Zealand.....	1,055	1,540	2,536	3,035	24,990	9,201
All other countries.....	10,840	3,243	2,109	5,427	1,157	3,526
Total.....	512,073	479,140	618,205	1,033,737	614,816	4,378,745

American Firms Should Try for Foreign Markets.

Nearly all of the balance was actually used in the United States, for shipments of cocoa and chocolate prepared or manufactured in the United States (exclusive of confectionery) were valued at only \$471,358 in the fiscal year 1910, \$498,694 in 1911, \$514,266 in 1912, \$376,336 in 1913, and \$336,940 in 1914. In 1915 these exports increased to \$1,934,166, but this gain, as in the case of reexports of cacao, can be attributed to war conditions, since \$862,816 worth went to Denmark (which country had bought but \$20 worth in the previous five years), \$232,434 worth to the Netherlands (against \$13,054 in 1914), and \$177,731 worth to Sweden (which country purchased no American cocoa in the five years preceding).

Of the shipments of chocolate bonbons, no separate record is kept in American official statistics. They are included with confectionery of all kinds, of which the exports in the fiscal year 1910 amounted to \$784,629; in 1911, to \$990,125; in 1912, to \$1,046,144; in 1913, to

\$1,282,196; in 1914, to \$1,329,147; and in 1915, to \$1,222,794. That this trade should receive the more earnest attention of American bonbon manufacturers has long been urged by confectionery journals, which see in the foreign field an outlet for the products of American factories that now lie practically idle several months each year because of the falling off of the domestic demand during summer.

Treatment of the Cacao Bean.

The small cacao "bean" which is consumed in such vast quantities in the United States and Europe is the product of trees of the genus *Theobroma*, the most important species of which is *Theobroma cacao*. This should not be confounded with the cocoa palm, which produces coconuts, nor with the shrub *Erythroxylon coca*, from which the alkaloid cocaine is obtained. Concerning the cacao bean and its preparation for the market a well-known reference work says:

The fruit is somewhat like a cucumber in shape and is 6 or 8 inches long, yellow, and red on the side next the sun; the rind is thick and warty; the pulp sweetish and not unpleasant; the seeds are numerous, compressed, and not unlike almonds, with a thin, pale, reddish-brown, fragile skin or shell, covering a dark-brown, oily, aromatic, bitter kernel, which consists mostly of the wrinkled cotyledons. These seeds are the cacao beans of commerce.

The cacao tree produces larger seeds in cultivation than in a wild state. The tree bears in four or five years, attains its full vigor and productiveness in 12 years, and generally yields two principal crops a year. When gathered the fruit is subjected to four to seven days' fermentation in earthen vessels or in heaps on the ground, or it is buried for a while in the earth until the pulp becomes rotten. The last-named method is said to produce the best cacao ("earthed cacao," or cacao terre). The fermentation is induced by an unorganized ferment inherent in the pod, and upon the proper handling of the bean during this period largely depends the quality of the product. After fermentation the beans are hulled and are carefully dried under uniform conditions of heat and moisture. The average yield per tree under favorable conditions will reach 7 pounds annually of cured cacao; usually, however, the yield is from 2 to 3 pounds per tree, or 400 to 600 pounds per acre.

Its Various Uses.

In manufacturing cacao the seeds are screened, roasted, and decorticated, the kernel being known as cacao-nibs. The hulls make a cheap substitute known as miserable. About two-thirds of the fat is removed and placed on the market in cakes known as cocoa butter and is used for emollients, etc. The residue of the cacao-nibs is ground, boxed, and sold as "cocoa," or is pressed into cakes after being sweetened and is known as "chocolate."

Cacao is very nutritious. The principal constituent of cacao beans is the soft, solid oil which forms more than 50 per cent of the whole shelled bean, about 22 per cent being starch, gum, mucilage, etc., and 17 per cent being gluten and albumen. They contain also a crystallizable principle called theobromine.

Nine-tenths of cocoa is assimilated in the system. For dietetic use cocoa is prepared in several ways; it is made into chocolate, it is eaten in the solid state in the form of cakes and bonbons, or is scraped down and treated with boiling water or milk. When cacao-nibs are infused in water, like coffee, they yield a highly palatable beverage. An infusion of the broken and roasted shells of cacao beans is sometimes used in the same way as tea or coffee. The pulp of the fruit is eaten in the countries in which the tree grows, and a kind of spirit is obtained from it by fermentation and distillation.

Tests of paper made by the United States Bureau of Standards during the month of November included 214 samples for the various Government departments and independent establishments, 120 samples for the Public Printer, and 2 for private firms, a total of 336 samples for the month.

THE PORT OF VLADIVOSTOK IN 1914.

[L'Economiste Européen, Nov. 5.]

The Russo-French Chamber of Commerce at Petrograd has published an interesting study of the port of Vladivostok in 1914, which is in substance as follows:

At the beginning of 1914 the great commercial activity encouraged the hope that the movement of trade would surpass the figures for 1913 and reach about 1,800,000 short tons. The realization of this hope was rendered the more probable by the fact that the financial market of Vladivostok was noticeably stronger, owing to the credits offered by the State Bank to various branches of the local industries, which were greatly depressed by the crisis of 1912-13. However, the war so disturbed business that the total movement was less than that of the preceding year. It must be noted that the activity of the port was suspended for six weeks. In September the port resumed business, but to a much more limited extent, because the customary traffic with the ports of the Black Sea ceased, and the steamers that were en route and had put in at neutral ports had to return to the ports from which they had departed. Moreover, commercial intercourse with northern Europe had for years been carried on by vessels flying the German flag, and in spite of efforts to that end Americans and Japanese were unable immediately to replace European goods. Fortunately, local merchants had stocks sufficiently large not only to prevent a crisis but to prevent prices from reaching an alarming height.

During the year 1914, 542 vessels, of 840,787 tons, entered the port of Vladivostok, against 600 vessels, of 973,609 tons, in 1913. In 1914 the number of vessels that departed from Vladivostok was 543, with a tonnage of 842,626, against 604 vessels in 1913 representing 976,296 tons.

The most important exports from Vladivostok are merchandise from Manchuria, especially beans, oil cake, and hempseed. In 1914 the exports of Manchurian products amounted to 388,000 short tons, valued at \$10,300,000. Exports of merchandise of local origin amounted to 30,700 tons, valued at \$1,751,000, an increase in value over the figure for the preceding year. The abundant fish of the northern waters could not be sold advantageously because the markets of England and Germany, which ordinarily take all that is offered, were inaccessible and the merchants had to sell caviar and fish on the interior Russian markets. Wood dealers also were in a somewhat critical position, but they were successful toward the end of the year in sending to England considerable quantities of wood of excellent quality.

Commerce with China and Japan showed some increase; there were sold considerable quantities of herrings and other fish, fertilizers, wood, and staghorns. Exports of the last-named product have considerably augmented since sufficient inducements were offered to farmers in the Ussuri district to engage in deer raising. Exports of aspen wood, which is used in Japan for making matches, fell off, owing, it is supposed, to sufficient stocks in Japan. The high freight rates also may have had some influence.

In imports at Vladivostok the first place among foreign countries was held by Japan, which supplied the following products: Copper, 3,720 tons; clean rice, 2,890 tons; cement, 2,170 tons.

NEW ZEALAND APPLES FOR SOUTH AMERICA.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 5.]

New Zealand fruit growers market about 150,000 cases of apples annually in South America, and this Government has taken steps to see if the amount can be greatly increased. The Agricultural Department sent a commissioner to Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, and Buenos Aires to study the markets and arrange for representatives to handle business. In his published report he says:

The total market in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil, for the average class of apples from New Zealand, is at present about 150,000 cases in round numbers. If, however, our apples are graded carefully for quality and packed to standard on the American system, and with reliable uniformity equal to American, then I believe that we could depend upon a market for at least 200,000 cases. I should expect the demand to increase year by year from a gradual retail cheapening of fruit and a widening popularity for the apple and a general tendency in South America toward a higher standard of living, all combined with a growing population. The market is not unlimited, as we in New Zealand sometimes have been led to believe, and our main export outlet for ordinary sized apples must be looked for in the Northern Hemisphere. South America, however, appears to me likely to be particularly valuable as providing a highly profitable market in future years for off sizes—for dessert apples above 2½ inches, which would be too large for Northern Hemisphere markets.

The apples shipped from this country are of a very fine flavor and, in the main, keep well, but are not so nicely packed as is usual at home.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(e)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. B.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 923 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.]

Bunting and cloth for flags, No. 19639.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that the consulate has had inquiries for bunting and cloth for flags. It is requested that manufacturers send at once catalogues, price lists, samples of different colors and grades of cloth, as well as all information in regard to shipment. Terms are cash against documents at port of destination. However, if 90 days' sight draft should be allowed, bank references will be given.

Machinery for paper clips, No. 19640.—An American consular officer reports that a commission firm in Portugal desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of machinery used for making paper clips. Correspondence should be in Portuguese.

Bromide paper, No. 19641.—A report from an American consular officer in Spain states that a man desires to import monthly 200 meters of bromide paper, 18 centimeters wide by 20 meters long. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Cheap cigars and leaf tobacco, No. 19642.—A manufacturers' agent in France informs an American consular officer that he desires to establish commercial relations with exporters of cheap cigars and leaf tobacco. Samples of the cigars desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 70151.) Prices should be quoted c. i. f. port of destination. Samples are requested. Correspondence may be in English.

Linen thread, No. 19643.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a business man in his district desires to import raw linen thread, in shipments of 1,000 kilos, for manufacturing canvas. Cash will be paid against documents in the United States. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Boots and shoes, findings, etc., No. 19644.—A letter to the bureau from a commission merchant in Russia states that he is interested in corresponding with manufacturers of boots and shoes for women and children, also buttons, shoe laces, shoe dressing, etc. Bank references are given.

Gelatine capsules, metal paper fasteners, etc., No. 19645.—A report from an American consular officer in England states that a firm in that country desires to import gelatine capsules, metal paper fasteners, small cedar-wood sticks for paintbrush handles, small cakes of water-color paints, etc. It is stated that the firm is in a position to purchase these articles in large quantities. Bank references are given.

Underwear, hosiery, etc., No. 19646.—A letter to the bureau from a business man in British Guiana states that he desires to represent manufacturers of fleece-lined shirts; cheap and finer grades of hosiery for men and women; stiff finish blue drills; and prints. The inquirer states he would be glad to represent American firms interested in rice, nuts, and other products grown in that country.

Tin cans, No. 19647.—An American consular officer in France reports that a commission agent desires to purchase 20,000 tin cans used in the distribution of oil, metal polishes, varnishes, paints, and other liquids for industrial purposes. The cans are made in the shape of a bottle with a screw stopper and rubber washer, and the sizes are 1 liter (1.05668 liquid quarts), $\frac{1}{2}$ liter, $\frac{1}{4}$ liter, and $\frac{1}{8}$ liter. Inquirer is willing to open a confirmed credit account with an American bank and meet reasonable requirements in the matter of payment and shipment.

Dry goods, No. 19648.—A report from an American consular officer states that a firm in Canada desires to communicate with manufacturers of dry goods as well as other lines, with a view to representing them in that country.

General representation, No. 19649.—A letter to the Bureau from a business man in Spain states that he desires to travel in South America for American firms. He speaks English, French, Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish. References are given.

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No. 302 Washington, D. C., Monday, December 27 1915

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ORGANIZATION OF SWISS IMPORT SYNDICATE.

[Cablegram from American minister, Berne, received Dec. 24.]

The syndicate for the supervision of the importation of iron, steel, and other metals under the Société Suisse de Surveillance has been organized at Zurich and will begin its operations January 1, 1916.

NORWEGIAN EMBARGO ON SARDINES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Christiania, Dec. 22.]

Sardines preserved in oil and rubber cement have been added to products the exportation of which from Norway is prohibited.

DECREASE IN FRENCH WINE PRODUCTION.

[Cablegram from Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veldtz, Paris, Dec. 23.]

The French tax authorities report a great decline in the 1915 wine output, which is estimated at 18,100,790 hectoliters (478,181,870 gallons), as against 56,134,159 hectoliters (1,482,938,405 gallons) in the preceding year, omitting for both years figures for the territory occupied by hostile forces. With about 7,000,000 hectoliters (184,900,000) gallons left over from last year, the total now available for consumption is 25,100,000 hectoliters (663,100,000 gallons). The yield of the southern vineyards showed the greatest decrease. The Herault region produced 15,000,000 hectoliters (396,266,000 gallons) last year and 5,000,000 hectoliters (132,089,000 gallons) this year, while the Gironde production fell from 5,000,000 hectoliters (132,089,000 gallons) to 1,000,000 hectoliters (26,418,000 gallons).

[A previous estimate of this year's French wine production was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 11, 1915.]

EMBARGO ON HAY IN CANADA.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Dec. 17.]

The shipment of hay from Canada to the United States was prohibited by an order of December 16, which limits the countries to which hay may be exported to the United Kingdom and British possessions and protectorates, France, Italy, Japan, and Russia (except Baltic ports). Under the former regulations the shipment of hay destined for consumption in the United States was permitted.

COST OF PRODUCTION IN HOSIERY INDUSTRY.

The following is a copy of a letter from the Secretary of Commerce, addressed to the President, submitting a report on the cost of production in the hosiery industry:

December 23, 1915.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I transmit to you herewith a report on the cost of production in the hosiery industry, prepared in compliance with the act of Congress approved August 23, 1912.

This is the second of a series of reports respecting the cost of production in different branches of the clothing industry. It is not, however, confined to the cost of production exclusively, but in conformity with the law deals also with working conditions, factory equipment, selling methods, imports and exports, and other trade conditions of interest in connection with the hosiery industry. It contains practical suggestions with regard to efficient factory management, and is in purpose, and I believe in fact, a scientific study of the industry in its various phases. It will be followed by several further reports covering other forms of the clothing industry.

This inquiry differs from others in the respect that investigation was opposed at the annual convention of the National Hosiery and Underwear Manufacturers, held in Philadelphia May 12-14, 1914, as is described on page 29. Because of the action of their association, 24 manufacturers refused to furnish data regarding the cost of production in their establishments. Fifteen out of these 24 were in Philadelphia. Notwithstanding this action of the convention, reports were secured from 36 members of the National Hosiery and Underwear Manufacturers who manufactured hosiery and from 14 members who manufactured knit underwear.

The report includes information obtained from 73 establishments, located in 16 States.

The average manufacturing profit on capital employed was 11.56 per cent. Details of profits and losses are fully given in the report. The salaries of active officers and partners were included in the cost of production before profits were figured, and depreciation was added as an expense before profits and losses were computed. Many establishments were found to keep no depreciation accounts and only 20 out of the 73 studied had reserves for depreciation. There were large variations in the percentages of cost of production and the percentages of profit. Some establishments have such crude systems of cost finding that they do not know exactly or even approximately their profit or loss on certain styles. The industry suffers from lack of an adequate cost-finding system. A variety of methods exists for calculating the charge for general expense, and many of the methods are very crude. This leads to unintelligent price making and ruinous competition. Most hosiery manufacturers admit that the lack of an accurate and uniform method of cost finding is a drawback which seriously interferes with the prosperity of the industry. There is absolute need of putting manufacturing establishments on an economical and efficient basis, and accurate cost accounting is an essential factor in so doing.

The industry suffers, as do other forms of the clothing trade, from such evils as cancellations, returns and allowances, deferred shipments, extra dating, etc. These have been prevalent for years and seem to increase. They have been made the subject of frank comment in the trade press. (Pp. 168-170, under heading "Trade Abuses.")

The use of antiquated machinery and the failure to keep machinery in proper condition are causes of waste of material and of the production of "seconds," which leads to manufacturing losses. This largely accounts for the excessive and keen competition of which much is heard. The manufacturer using an old type of machine, being unable to sell in normal competition with the product of improved machines, has to cut his price, and this forces competition of the cut-throat kind.

Your attention is especially invited to the facts concerning the imports and exports of hosiery given on pages 46-48. Most of the importations are of cheaper grades of full-fashioned cotton hosiery, a large part of them consisting of children's full-fashioned hose, of which but little is manufactured in the United States.

It is interesting to note the facts (p. 90) showing that profits are not necessarily coincident with low labor cost or that an establishment whose proportion

of expenditure for labor was lower than others paid less to its employees than those others. The average labor cost, based on total manufacturing and selling expense, is found to vary from 17.22 per cent for one group of factories to 33.74 per cent for another, the average for the entire 73 establishments being 28.83 per cent. The duty on imports of cotton hosiery under the existing law averages 44.60 per cent (p. 99).

Under the heading of "Manufacturing and selling" (p. 146) the views of manufacturers are stated. The competition in the industry is severe; so much so that a manufacturer who was interviewed stated that it was not so much foreign competition that was hurting the hosiery business as fierce domestic competition. But small capital is required to start making seamless hosiery, and for this reason hundreds of such plants have sprung up all over the country in recent years. During the year 1914-92 new hosiery mills went into operation, of which 42 were in Pennsylvania and 18 in North Carolina.

It has been the purpose of the department in the conduct of this inquiry to present a true picture of the industry, including the adverse conditions under which manufacturers admittedly labor, and to offer, as far as possible, suggestions that may tend to improve those conditions.

The thanks of the department are tendered to those many manufacturers who have in the broadest spirit of cooperation assisted the officers of the service in their work.

It is earnestly hoped that the studies now completed may be fruitful of good to the entire industry.

Yours, very truly,

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD, *Secretary.*

THE PRESIDENT,

The White House.

RESUMPTION OF ROUTING THROUGH PANAMA CANAL.

The following memorandum has been issued, dated December 22, 1915, by Maj. F. C. Boggs, United States Corps of Engineers:

There have been several reports recently in the newspapers regarding the passage of vessels through the Panama Canal. A cablegram asking for information was sent to the governor on the Isthmus and a reply dated December 21 has been received, from which it would seem that a temporary opportunity to pass small craft drawing about 15½ feet or less was taken advantage of and certain vessels which had been held since the canal was closed were allowed to pass the slides on December 20.

If a similar opportunity offers, a few additional vessels of a greater draft, which have also been held since the closure of the canal, will probably be passed through, but the governor warns that conditions are unstable and it is impossible to estimate in advance what the probable available channel will be at any succeeding date.

The governor still states that no predictions can be made of the probable date of opening, and he is extremely anxious to prevent a premature resumption of the routing of ships via the canal which would be sure to embarrass the work and would result in the delay of the final opening of a stable channel. He also calls attention to the fact that such a premature resumption would be expensive to shipping interests on account of unavoidable delays to ships that might have to be held for an indefinite period.

When conditions are such as will permit an accurate prediction relative to the opening of the canal all interests will be promptly notified.

F. C. Boggs,

Major, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., Chief of Office.

VESSELS ADMITTED TO AMERICAN REGISTRY.

During the four weeks ended December 18, 1915, there was admitted to American registry under the act of August 18, 1914, one vessel, the steamer *Constitucion*, formerly the Ecuadorean steamer *Hatasu*, of 3,358 gross tons, now owned by the Caribbean & Southern Steamship Co. (Inc.) (home port to be stated later). The total admitted from July 1 to December 18, 1915, was 23 vessels of 60,354 gross tons.

ANNUAL REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF NAVIGATION.

According to the annual report of the Commissioner of Navigation to the Secretary of Commerce for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, which has just been issued, the merchant marine of the United States, including all kinds of documented shipping, comprised on June 30 last 26,701 vessels of 8,389,429 gross tons, as compared with 26,943 vessels of 7,928,688 gross tons one year earlier. The year's absolute increase in tonnage, 460,741 gross tons, has never been equaled in our history. While the total tonnage has increased, the number of documented vessels has decreased 242, sailing vessels alone decreasing 593 in number. The decline in the number of vessels with an increase in the total tonnage is a normal result of the development of water transportation. The size of vessels has been steadily increasing since steel and steam came into general use. In tonnage and value the merchant shipping under the American flag is surpassed only by that under the British flag, and in tonnage it equals that under any other two foreign flags combined except the British.

American shipping registered for the foreign trade, included in the figures above, numbered on June 30, 1915, 2,794 vessels of 1,871,543 gross tons, an increase during the year of 389 vessels and 795,391 gross tons. This increase is three times as great as the increase in registered tonnage during any previous year in our history.

Tonnage enrolled and licensed for the coasting or domestic trade on June 30, 1915, numbered 23,907 vessels of 6,517,886 gross tons, a decrease of 631 vessels and 334,650 gross tons since June 30, 1914.

During the past year under the ship registry act of August 18, 1914, a total of 148 vessels and of 523,361 gross tons, valued at \$33,392,756 and manned by 6,149 men, were transferred from foreign flags to the American flag and register. These transfers in most cases involved a change only in the ownership of record, made possible by the act referred to, which enabled American owners to place under their own flag ships built in foreign countries.

Shipyards on Seaboard Now Busily Employed.

During the year 1,157 vessels of 225,122 gross tons were built and documented in the United States, compared with 1,151 vessels of 316,250 gross tons for the previous year. The output is the smallest since 1898, and was anticipated in the report for last year because of the general depression in shipbuilding and other industries prevailing in the summer and early autumn of 1914. Our shipyards on the seaboard at the present time are busily employed and the output for the year, at present prospects, will probably reach 400,000 gross tons. On June 30, 1915, the seaboard yards reported that 62 steel vessels of 294,138 gross tons were under construction or under contract to be built, a tonnage which has not been approached at the corresponding date in the last 15 years except in 1901, when 63 vessels of 273,865 gross tons were so reported.

The receipts from tonnage duties during the year ended June 30, 1915, were \$1,315,425.30, compared with \$1,310,759.03 for the previous year, and are the largest annual receipts from this source in over 30 years.

The organization of the field force to carry out the laws relating to radio communication has been improved during the year, and in con-

sequence it has been possible to carry on more fully the inspection system through the seaboard States and the States bordering on the Great Lakes. The Bureau has begun to assemble records of marine casualties in which the wireless system on ships inspected by the department contributed to the saving of life and property. Incomplete returns for the past fiscal year show 36 such casualties and in every instance the apparatus worked satisfactorily, the auxiliary set taking up the work of the communication when the main set, through the nature of the casualty, was put out of commission. Radio operators have set for themselves high standards of courage and devotion to duty.

EXHIBIT AT THE UNITED STATES COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

In connection with the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress the offices of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey at 205 New Jersey Avenue southeast, will be open to the public from 9 a. m. until 5.30 p. m. every day, except Sunday, and January 1, from December 27 to January 8. Visitors will be afforded an opportunity to view the methods and the results of the work of this Bureau, and there will be some one on hand at all times to act as guide and to explain the exhibits. There will be an exhibit of nautical charts, survey plats and records, diagrams, and publications. The exhibit will also include the surveying instruments which are used by this Bureau, particularly those which have been designed in the Bureau. A tide-predicting machine which was designed and constructed at this office will be on exhibit and visitors will have an opportunity to see this machine in operation, making actual predictions for use in the next tide tables. Attached to each exhibit will be a short explanation, written in both English and Spanish.

FREE ADMISSION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel H. Wiley, Asuncion, Nov. 13.]

A law enacted November 8, 1915, provides that unused vehicles, including automobiles and motor trucks, together with their accessories and spare parts, shall be exempt from import duty in Paraguay for a period of two years from that date. The suspended duty on motor vehicles imported into Paraguay amounts to 62 per cent ad valorem, including surtaxes. [Under a law promulgated Sept. 16, 1914, motor vehicles were to be exempt from duty for a period of one year from that date (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 17, p. 124).]

The official statement of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia regarding the scheme agreed upon by the representatives of the Commonwealth and the States for dealing with the new wheat crop has been received from the American commercial attaché, William C. Downs, at Melbourne, and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 958. Reference to this agreement was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for December 11, 1915.

ANNUAL REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

The annual report of the United States Commissioner of Fisheries to the Secretary of Commerce shows that the bureau has just completed the most successful of the 45 years of its existence. The number of fish produced and distributed was greater, and the cost of production per million less than in any previous year. Fifty permanent hatcheries and 76 subhatcheries, auxiliaries, and egg-collecting stations have been conducted, and the output during the fiscal year 1915 was over four billion young fish and eggs, an increase of more than 241,000,000 over the previous year. Plants of food fishes were made in every State and territory; fish eggs were distributed to the fish commissions of 27 States; and consignments of eggs were sent to Porto Rico, Cuba, India, and Japan. The distribution of the output required more than 146,000 miles of travel by the five special cars of the bureau and 491,000 miles by detached messengers.

The introduction of the humpback salmon of the Pacific coast into Maine streams, which last year was an experiment, is now a reality, as numbers of these fish were taken during the summer of 1915 in the Maine rivers; furthermore, ripe eggs have been taken from them—a proof positive of thorough acclimatization. The counterexperiment of transplanting the Atlantic lobster in Pacific waters is still in progress.

Decline of Lobster Industry—Diminution of Shad.

The steady decline of the lobster industry has been a source of great uneasiness. The causes of this decline are well known, and a conference of fishery experts was held in Woods Hole early in July to consider just what remedy should be applied to the alarming situation. Resolutions adopted clearly point out the course that the States must pursue to arrest the decline and show the need for greater efficiency in artificial propagation.

The marked diminution of the shad also presents a serious problem. Shad are caught in every coast State from Maine to Florida and have for many years formed a substantial contribution to the food supply. Now, because of inadequate protection afforded the fish on their way from the sea to the spawning grounds, the supply is being rapidly depleted. Shad hatcheries built and maintained at great expense by the Federal Government have been put out of commission by the inability to obtain eggs for hatching purposes. The most serious condition exists in the Chesapeake Basin, where last year the fishery was the poorest ever known.

The pearl-button industry of the Mississippi Valley is reposing much faith in the output of fresh-water mussels from the Fairport (Iowa) biological station of the bureau. The fresh-water mussel begins its life as a parasite on the gills of fishes, and part of the work of the Fairport laboratory is infecting fishes with these parasites—a process which in no way injures the fish but merely provides a vehicle for transporting the mussels to the places where they mature and become of commercial value. About 300,000,000 young mussels were thus put into suitable nurseries in 1915.

Utilization of Food Fishes Heretofore Wasted.

The Bureau of Fisheries has done and is doing much for the conservation and utilization of food fishes which have heretofore been

wasted. Each year, when the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, with their various tributaries, overflow their banks and later recede, millions of young fish are left stranded in temporary pools or where in a short time they would perish. Rescue work is, however, undertaken by the bureau, and in 1915 over eight million valuable food fish were saved and delivered to applicants, deposited in public waters, or returned to the main rivers. Another phase of this work is the exploiting of unknown or little-known food fishes and other aquatic products. The campaign carried on by the bureau put the sea mussel, a wholesome food, for centuries highly regarded in Europe, on the American market as a regular article, and established a permanent and growing industry. This work has been extended to other neglected sea foods, and still further exploitation is promised, the recent establishment of the tilefish being a case in point. Aid is given also to fisheries already established, and during the past year fishing grounds off the coasts of Washington and Oregon, whose existence was never suspected or whose precise location was unknown, have been surveyed and tested and a marked impetus has been given to local fisheries.

As the correspondence of the Bureau shows a widespread interest in frog culture, the services of a skilled investigator have been secured to study the matter and find a means for the propagation of this important species on a commercial basis. The great fisheries of Alaska, carried on in accordance with Federal laws administered by the Bureau of Fisheries, were more prosperous in 1914 than in any previous year. The catch of salmon was the largest ever made, and the output of red salmon in the Bristol Bay region was enormous.

The Alaskan seals constitute the most valuable herd of wild animals ever owned by any Government, and the Bureau of Fisheries is their custodian. The revenue to the Government from the sale of seal skins—when commercial killing is resumed—will be very large, and efforts are being made to find uses for the seal carcasses aside from the comparatively small number required by the natives for food. The old practice of using only the skin and wasting the carcass can no longer be countenanced. In February, 1915, Congress authorized the Secretary to postpone the sale of the sealskins then in his possession until a more propitious time. The Department now has several thousand skins in storage, and a plan has been consummated whereby the dyeing and dressing of the skins, heretofore done in London, will be carried on in this country, resulting in a great saving to the Government and a reduction in the price of the finished article to the consumer.

BRITISH EMBARGO CHANGES.

[Cablegram from consul general, London, Dec. 22.]

The exportation of hematite pig iron and of iron and steel smelting scrap to all destinations is prohibited, and the exportation of the following products to all destinations other than British possessions has been forbidden: Bichromate of soda, bladders, casings and sausage skins, colchicum and its preparations, solid drawn steel tubes, and wireless telegraph apparatus. Material for telegraphs and telephones, vegetable fibers and yarns made therefrom (not including linen yarns at present free from embargo restrictions) may not be exported to countries in Europe.

NEW ORLEANS TO HAVE MANY CONVENTIONS.

A list of the conventions already booked for New Orleans, La., during 1916, prepared by the convention and tourist bureau of the New Orleans Association of Commerce, has been received from Commercial Agent E. E. Judd, in charge of the New Orleans branch office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The names of the organizations and the respective secretaries or persons who can furnish detailed information are:

Rotary Clubs, district No. 12 (Louisiana and Texas), January 12-13, W. H. Richardson, jr., Austin, Tex.

Rotary Clubs, district No. 5 (Georgia, Florida, and Alabama), January 12-13, B. C. Brown, New Orleans, La.

Laymen's Missionary Convention (special), January 23-26, Rev. S. H. Werlein, chairman, 5830 Prytanla Street, New Orleans, La.

"Southeastern Kansas Boosters" trip, January 24 or 27, George T. Guernsey, jr., chairman, Independence, Kans.

Gulf Foreign Freight Committee, January 24-25, E. B. Boyd, chairman, 2222 Transportation Building, Chicago, Ill.

National Foreign Trade Council, January 27-29, Robert H. Patchin, secretary, 64 Stone Street, New York City.

Southern Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers, January or February, B. C. Brown, secretary, New Orleans, La.

American Gynecological Congress, February 11-13, Dr. Leroy Brown, secretary, 148 West Seventy-seventh Street, New York City.

Southern Sociological Congress, March 27-30, J. E. McCulloch, secretary, Nashville, Tenn.

National Association of Real Estate Exchanges, March 28-31, Walter C. Piper, president, 400 Holden Building, Detroit, Mich.

Medico-Psychological Association, April 4-7, Dr. C. Plerson, Jackson, La.

Southern Conference for Education and Industry, April 18-21, A. P. Bourland, chairman, 508 MacLachlen Building, Washington, D. C.

American Nurses' Association, April 26-May 2, Miss Katherine DeWitt, secretary, 45 South Union Street, Rochester, N. Y.

National Organization for Public Health Nursing, April 26-May 2, Miss Ella Phillips Crandall, secretary, 54 East Thirty-fourth Street, New York City.

International League of Nursing—Education, April 26-May 2, Miss Emma L. Wall, 3527 Carondelet Street, New Orleans, La.

National Retail Grocers' Association, April, J. J. Ryan, secretary, 820 Commerce Building, St. Paul, Minn.

Oil Mill Machinery Manufacturers' Supply Association, May 24-26, W. H. Marshall, secretary, Chattanooga, Tenn.

National Oil Mill Superintendents' Association, May 25-26, F. P. Morris, secretary, Purcell, Okla.

Railway Development Association, May, H. O. Hartzell, secretary, care B. & O. R. R., Baltimore, Md.

Louisiana State Medical Society, spring, Dr. J. Martin, secretary, New Orleans, La.

Louisiana Railway Surgeons' Association, spring.

Order of Eastern Star (State), spring.

Tri-State Launderers' Association, spring, J. H. McCormick, secretary, Mobile, Ala.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers, spring, Calvin W. Rice, secretary, 29 West Twenty-ninth Street, New York City.

International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, September 18-27, Harry Jones, secretary, 422 Central Life Building, Indianapolis, Ind.

National Association of Fish and Game Commissioners, October 12-14.

Young Men's Business Clubs of America, October 12-14, Harold P. Nathan, Hennen Building, New Orleans, La.

American Fisheries Society, October 16-19, Ward T. Bower, secretary, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

American Railway Bridges and Building Association, October 17-19, C. A. Lichty, secretary, care C. & N. W. R. R., 207 North Howard Avenue, Austin Station, Chicago, Ill.

Railway Gardening Association, December 16-19, J. S. Butterfield, secretary, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Southern Agricultural Workers, fall, Prof. C. A. Wilson, secretary, Knoxville, Tenn.

National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs, fall, J. H. Farrell, secretary, Auburn, N. Y.

American Association of Dining Car Superintendents, date undecided, F. M. Dow, secretary, I. C. R. R., Chicago, Ill.

American Association of Park Superintendents, fall, Roland W. Cotterill, secretary, Seattle, Wash.

ENGLISH, NOT SPANISH, SPOKEN IN JAMAICA.

[Consular Agent Henry T. Wilcox, Port Maria.]

Many business men in the United States seem to be under the impression that Spanish is spoken in Jamaica, and some American exporters are injuring their cause by sending advertising matter to this island that is not printed in English. It is common for catalogues in Spanish to be received at this office, and occasionally the importers in this district complain of the same thing. The following letter received at this agency from one of the prominent storekeepers of Port Maria shows how the business men of Jamaica feel in regard to the matter:

I periodically receive the inclosed circular, which, as you will observe, is so much waste paper to me.

I should be glad if you would point out the absurdity of sending catalogues printed in Spanish to a British colony.

Surely your countrymen ought to realize that Jamaica belongs, and has belonged for some considerable period, to the British Empire, and if your good friends are really desirous of placing their goods on the market here they could do so much more effectively by sending catalogues printed in the language of the country.

This is the second time that the writer's attention has been called to the fact that the Spanish edition of the trade journal referred to is being sent here. On the first occasion a letter was written from this office to the publishers advising them of their mistake, but no reply was received. It is to be regretted that such incidents should occur, especially at a time when there is such a good opportunity for placing American goods in Jamaica.

While the United States already enjoys a large share of the trade of Jamaica, there is plenty of opportunity to increase it, and if American exporters are careful to see that their advertising matter and correspondence are in English they will remove one of the Jamaicans' few causes of complaint with regard to American business methods.

Unusual increases in the five years from 1909 to 1914 are shown for the city of Tulsa, Okla., in the preliminary statement on the census of manufactures, issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. In the order of their importance, from a percentage standpoint, the increases for the several items rank as follows: Salaries, 238.9 per cent; capital, 178.2; materials, 148.4; value of products, 147.7; value added by manufacture, 146.9; wages, 117.5; primary horsepower, 97.4; and wage earners, 83.1 per cent. The capital invested, as reported in 1914, was \$3,208,000, a gain of \$2,055,000 over \$1,153,000 in 1909.

CANADIAN TRADING-STAMP ACT.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa.]

The trading-stamp scheme is supposed to have originated in the United States about the year 1895. It was introduced into Canada nearly five years later. Briefly described, trading stamps consisted of printed coupons or stamps, usually about the size of postage stamps, which were sold by certain companies or individuals to merchants, who in turn gave them out to customers as premiums in proportion to the amount of goods purchased. In some cases the stamps were redeemed by the merchants themselves, but the practice that obtained almost exclusively in Canada was to have the stamps redeemed by the companies or individuals who sold them, who gave in exchange for a certain number of stamps various articles of merchandise.

It was not long after the introduction of trading stamps in Canada that complaints began to arise concerning the system. It was claimed among other things that the value given to customers was about one-half or one-third the stated value of the stamps or the prices paid by merchants for the stamps; that the stamps, being sold by the promoters of the system to only a few merchants in one locality, created a monopoly in restraint of trade in favor of a few trading-stamp people; and that the system was demoralizing in its effect upon the poorer classes of consumers, owing to the element of lottery which it contained.

Provisions of Certain Sections.

In 1901 the question of trading stamps received legislative attention in Ontario, in which year and in subsequent years the Province passed laws empowering municipalities to prohibit the giving, selling, distributing, or receiving of trading stamps, coupons, or similar devices. In the Province of Quebec, also, similar legislation was passed. The need for Dominion legislation arose from the fact that the Ontario and Quebec legislation was held to be unconstitutional on the ground that it is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament to enact laws relating to trade and commerce. During the summer of 1905 a bill was introduced into Parliament, and subsequently passed, which Act added several new sections to the Criminal Code respecting trading stamps, among them being:

"Trading stamps" includes, besides trading stamps commonly so called, any form of cash receipt, coupon, premium ticket, or other device designed or intended to be given to the purchaser of goods by the vendor thereof or his employee or agent and to represent a discount on the price of such goods or a premium to the purchaser thereof which is redeemable either:

- (I) by any person other than the vendor or the person from whom he purchased the goods, or the manufacturer of the goods, or
- (II) by the vendor or the person from whom he purchased the goods, or the manufacturer of the goods, in cash or goods not his property or not his exclusive property, or
- (III) by the vendor elsewhere than in the premises where such goods are purchased;

or which does not show upon its face the place of its delivery and the merchantable value thereof, or is not redeemable at any time.

Every one is guilty of an indictable offense and liable to one year's imprisonment and to a fine not exceeding \$500 who, by himself or his employee or agent, directly or indirectly issues, gives, sells, or otherwise disposes of, or offers to issue, give, sell, or otherwise dispose of trading stamps to a merchant or dealer in goods for use in his business.

Every one is guilty of an indictable offense and liable to six months' imprisonment and to a fine not exceeding \$200 who, being a merchant or dealer in goods, by himself or his employee or agent, directly or indirectly gives or in any way disposes of or offers to give or in any way disposes of trading stamps to a purchaser from him of any such goods.

Every one is guilty of an offense and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$20 who, being a purchaser of goods from a merchant or dealer in goods, directly or indirectly receives or takes trading stamps from the vendor of such goods or his employee or agent.

COTTON WADDING FOR CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, Nov. 8.]

Approximately 13,000 bales of "guata," a species of thin cotton wadding, will be required in Canary Island ports within the next eight months to assist in packing the forthcoming banana crop. As the previous source of supply, the Manchester cotton factories, are unable to furnish the entire amount needed, an excellent opportunity to dispose of American cotton would seem to be offered.

Sales made this week ran as high at \$29 spot cash per bale on the wharf in this port for a small lot from Manchester, and dealers in packing material declare the article very hard to obtain. A bale of cotton wadding weighs 156 pounds net and 168 pounds gross. The present supply is coming entirely from the Manchester cotton center, although previous to the war much came from Holland.

In addition to the general difficulties of war freights, the British Government has placed an embargo on any shipments of cotton wadding to the Canaries except under special Government orders, which are not easily obtained.

Spanish packing firms are anxious to find out if American cotton factories can supply them at the same or lower prices than are charged by the Manchester spinners.

The guata bales are made up and packed in the following manner: 120 pieces of wadding to each bale; each piece 12 yards long, weighing 22 ounces; width of wadding, 34 to 35 inches; total length in bale, 1,440 yards. These bales are wrapped in stout canvas coverings and are strongly compressed with thin iron bands.

The number of bales to the ton of 2,240 pounds is 13.3. The ocean freight rate direct from New York to Canary ports, based on figures for similar-class freight arrived in recent cargoes, should be \$17 per ton. The freight rate via Liverpool to Canary ports would approximate \$22 per ton, and via Habana should be about \$25 per ton, for this class of merchandise, unless in small quantities, when the price is decidedly higher. As, however, the present selling price of guata in this district is about \$400 per ton, the freight rate is less important than the ability to secure shipment, which is now proving difficult.

[Samples of the Manchester guata may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices, which will also supply a list of buyers of guata in the Canary Islands. Refer to file No. 69894.]

SWEDEN RAISES EXCHANGE RATE ON DANISH BILLS.

[American Minister Ira N. Morris, Stockholm, Nov. 17.]

In connection with the difference in value of Swedish and Danish crowns the State Bank has raised the rate of exchange on Danish bills to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

THE BOOROW WOOD OF SOCIETY ISLANDS.

[Consul Thomas B. L. Layton, Papeete, Tahiti, Oct. 30.]

The *Ochroma lagopus* (the corkwood of the British West Indies, the balsa of South America, and the boorow or puran of the South Pacific Islands) is found in abundance not only in Tahiti but in nearly every island in this consular district. Two varieties are recognized—the hard and the soft—both growing from the same roots. Locally the varieties are not considered as distinct species, but their different structure is attributed to the environment of the plant—to the temperature, fertility, and degree of moisture of the soil in which it grows, and to other extrinsic influences conducive to rapid growth. Given the conditions favorable to quick development only, the softwood will be found. In less suitable surroundings both varieties may occur (the hard predominating), the degree of toughness of the wood depending in such cases upon the age of the trunks or branches themselves.

There are no dealers in boorow in this colony. The wood has no commercial value locally and has never been exported, except perhaps in very small quantities. It is chiefly used as outriggers for native canoes, owing to its lightness and great buoyancy, and for firewood. The leaves of the plant are believed to possess valuable medicinal properties, and are extensively employed by the natives in the treatment of hemorrhoids.

No Local Prices Obtainable.

Almost all of the boorow in the colony will be found growing on private property (where it is considered a pest), although it also occupies a large area of public land. The plant being valueless here, it is impossible to estimate the cost of the wood where it stands, and for the same reason the price of even 1 cord hauled and delivered on board ship can not be stated. The native landowner might be willing to dispose of the wood without profit to himself should he receive an offer to clear his acres of the encumbering growth, or suddenly finding it endowed with value he might name a prohibitive price. For boorow standing on public lands the Government would decline to quote prices offhand, but would first insist upon some form of contract or agreement.

An order for several cords placed with a native would produce unsatisfactory results. He could not be relied upon to cut and ship only the quality and length of wood required. No one else here would undertake to supply the demand unless for very large orders. The naming of an agent to purchase the wood and arrange for its forwarding before the situation had been carefully investigated would not be advisable.

How to Handle the Trade.

The only feasible method to be employed in obtaining boorow from this colony, should the demand be large enough to warrant the expense, would be to send a representative who might inquire into the local production, study the questions of labor and transportation, and enter into agreements with the Government and native landowners.

There are no railroads in any of the islands in the colony and no wagon roads except in Tahiti. The transportation of the wood from the neighboring islands to Papeete (the only port of shipment) would have to be by specially chartered sailing crafts. In Tahiti a few motor trucks owned by the merchants might be available; in the outlying islands pack mules and horses would have to be employed.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Peck, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(*)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Laurence Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Elsveth Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.
Bonney, Wilbert L.....	San Luis Potosi, Mexico.....	Feb. 13	1905 North Bush Street, Santa Ana, Cal.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canjoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

† Consul Wilbert L. Bonney shall visit San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, Cal., and San Antonio, Tex., and will advise the Chamber of Commerce in each of these cities of his arrival and address.

CANADIAN POTATOES GAIN MARKET IN CUBA.

[From American consulate, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Dec. 15.]

An American transportation agent states that Canadian potatoes are being sold in Cuba despite the 20 per cent differential tariff reduction given to the American product. This condition, he says, is due to the particular activity of one or more commercial agents of the Canadian Government operating in or near Habana.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 308 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 923 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

ITALIAN CEMENT INDUSTRY.

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Oct. 19.]

In Palermo there are two factories producing natural cement. One has an output of 30,000 tons annually and the other of 8,000 tons. The stone from which the cement is manufactured comes from a mountain at the edge of the city. About 75 per cent of it is available for making cement. The larger of the mills is contemplating the manufacture of artificial cement and desires to receive offers from American machinery manufacturers for grinding machines and rotary ovens. The capacity will be about 100 tons per day. Information may be furnished to this consulate.

Most of the cement now manufactured is used in Sicily, little being exported to the Continent. Reinforced-concrete construction has been used very little in this district, as there is a building stone available here that is cheap and durable. This stone is very soft when first taken from the quarry and may be cut with an ordinary ax, but after some months' exposure to the air it hardens and is a very durable building material.

The largest users of cement are the factories that make tiling for the floors of houses, and contractors building sidewalks. The cement-tile business has been developed to a great extent and artistic designs are produced in various colors. Most of this work is done by hand. Tiles are usually made about 8 inches square and three-fourths of an inch thick. Around a smooth steel plate is locked a frame in which is inserted the design. Liquid cement is then poured into this container to the depth of about one-fourth of an inch, the different colors being used to give the desired pattern. The steel design is then lifted out of the frame, which is filled with a mixture of sand and cement and put under a power press. The frame is then removed and the tile taken out and put on a rack for drying. It is allowed to stand for one month before being used. Instead of the various designs, broken marble sometimes gives a mosaic effect, white marble being used in red cement and red marble in gray or yellow cement. The colors are bought in France and cost about \$4.54 per 100 pounds, with the exception of green, which costs \$31.75 per 100 pounds. From red, yellow, and black other colors are produced. The cost of cement is about \$12 per metric ton of 2,204.6 pounds, and of sand \$1 per cubic yard. Most of the work is done by women, who receive \$0.30 to \$0.40 per day. The men who work in the factories receive an average of \$0.80 to \$0.90 a day. There are four factories engaged in the manufacture of these tiles, as the demand is large. Practically all floors are now made of this material. The tiling is laid so as to give the effect of a rug, and during the summer no carpets are used. By the use of a little oil, the floors may be polished like hardwood floors. The prices range from \$0.074 to \$0.25 per square foot.

Other articles made of cement are balustrades, supports for balconies, pipes, bathtubs, washbasins, feed troughs, park benches, statues, and gravestones.

[A catalogue of the largest factory, showing designs and prices, may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices, which will also supply upon request the name of the firm that is contemplating the manufacture of artificial cement. Refer to file No: 03884.]

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the file number given.

Rubber bellows, No. 19650.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter stating that a firm in England desires to purchase large quantities of rubber bellows made of black rubber of superior quality to be used with good class "poker machines." They are made with the hand ball connected to an air ball which has a 14-inch rubber tube attached. The two sizes required are best indicated by the size of the hand ball; No. 3 hand ball has a 2-inch diameter by 3-inch length, excluding the valve and connections; No. 7 has a 3-inch diameter by 3½-inch length, excluding the valve and connections. It is requested that samples accompany quotations. Illustration of rubber bellows wanted may be seen at the Bureau or its district branches. (Refer to File No. 84.) Bank references are given.

Tobacco pipes, No. 19651.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a pipe company, holding American and Canadian patents on an improved tobacco pipe, desires to receive proposals from the manufacturers of pipes. The company also desires to secure the services of an agent for the purpose of placing the pipes on the market. Cuts of the pipe may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 70093.) Bank references are given.

Motor cycles and racing skiff, No. 19652.—A commercial agent of the Bureau states that a man in Salvador desires catalogues of motor cycles, and prices on a racing skiff for one person. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or San Francisco.

Repeating syringes, No. 19653.—A report from an American consular officer in England states that a firm desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers making nickel-plated repeating syringes for use in theaters, etc. Sizes wanted are: Barrel 5 inches by 1½ inches in diameter; barrel 14 inches by 1½ inches in diameter; barrel 19 inches by 1½ inches in diameter. The inquirer states it is prepared to take up the sole agency in the United Kingdom for these goods. References are given. An illustration showing sprayer wanted may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 69971.)

Shoes, shoe leather, and paper, No. 19654.—An American consular officer in Chile states that a company in his district desires to act as commission agent for manufacturers of shoes, shoe leather, and news print paper. The leather desired is calf, glazed kid, patent kid in light, medium, and heavy quality, the light-medium in black and yellow being the one mostly in demand. Samples and quotations f. o. b. New York are asked for on cement, linings, thread, pegs, eyelets, laces, buckles, blackings, rubber heels, and workmen's shoes to be used in the nitrate district. Samples of the shoes may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 69981.) It is stated that 200 dozen pairs of this kind of shoe can be used per month. The sample shoe is sewed, but the class mostly sold is made with pegs.

Stationery and office novelties, No. 19655.—A letter to the Bureau states that a company in Spain desires to purchase large quantities of stationery and office novelties.

Lead seals, No. 19656.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in the United States asking for the names and addresses of manufacturers of machinery for making lead seals.

Cinematograph films, No. 19657.—An American consular officer in Paraguay reports that a manager of a theater desires to receive catalogues and prices of cinematograph films. Dramas in several parts are preferred. Correspondence and catalogues should be in Spanish.

Clock and gramophone springs, No. 19658.—A report from an American consular officer in England states that a firm in his district desires to obtain main-springs such as those used in clocks, gramophones, and typewriters. Bank references are given.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 2859.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for supplying the following. Firms desiring to submit proposals should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving schedule numbers desired: Schedule 9141, tinned bacon, tinned string beans, California white beans, tinned corn, vanilla and lemon extracts, lard, macaroni, evaporated milk, split peas, tinned ~~peas~~, baking powder, raisins, rice, salt, sirup, sugar in sacks, tea in crated half chests, tinned tomatoes, and vinegar; schedule 9142, fireproofing girders; schedule 9143, lavatories, urinals, water-closets and tanks, and iron soil pipe and fittings; schedule 9144, nonferrous metal, accordion type bellows, and prime lard oil; schedule 9145, steel clamping bridges and bronze clamping screws; schedule 9146, sheet brass, cold rolled sheet copper, sheet iron or steel, cold rolled sheet steel, and bright tin plate; schedule 9147, coke; schedule 9148, yellow-pine creosoted piles; schedule 9149, copper stowage boxes, crank pin bushings, steel piston rings, thumb nuts and screws, No. 30 tools, and bar machine steel; schedule 9150, Port Orford cedar boat boards and cypress for boat building; schedule 9151, incandescent lamp cord; schedule 9152, No. 1 glycerin; schedule 9153, crucibles for melting composition, gauge testing outfits, solid and cored arc lamp carbons, single conductor wire, brass nuts, hot rolled sheet copper, ferromanganese, and silicate of soda; schedule 9154, silver-plated ware; schedule 9155, air hose for diving apparatus, rubber garden hose, and unlined linen hose; schedule 9156, bath and state room crockery, window glass, artificial leather, upholstery leather, cotton thread, and flax twine; schedule 9157, rivet cement, calcium carbide, lampblack in oil, dry red lead, dry litharge, yellow ochre in oil, boiled linseed oil, amber-colored mineral oil, whale oil, grade "D" lump rosin, and tallow; schedule 9158, worm-gear chain blocks, calipers, quick-adjusting clamps, portable electric drills, files, machine and wood brass screws, 1-gallon gasoline torches, vises, pipe wrenches, and screw wrenches; schedule 9159, 7-ounce thin blue flannel, and heavy quality blue flannel; schedule 9160, unannealed brass tubes; and schedule 9161, steel shelves and bins.

Removal of wreck, No. 2860.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, 401 Customhouse, San Francisco, Cal., until January 20, 1916, subject to prior removal, for removing the wreck *City of Panama* now lying in San Francisco Bay. Further information may be had on application to the Engineer Office in San Francisco.

Windlass, No. 2861.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until January 8, 1916, for furnishing and delivering to general lighthouse depot, Tompkinsville, one windlass for lighthouse tender *Larkspur*. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Bacon, No. 2862.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the depot quartermaster, Kansas City, Mo., or at the office of the depot quartermaster, Omaha, Nebr., until January 21, 1916, for furnishing and delivering on or before March 20, 1916, about \$8,440 pounds of issue bacon.

Lighting, No. 2863.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Ketchikan, Alaska, until January 31, 1916, for lighting about 400 tons of miscellaneous freight from Katalla anchorage to Cape St. Elias Light Station, Alaska. Specifications and forms for proposal may be secured by applying to the above office or to the postmasters at Katalla, Seward, or Cordova, Alaska.

Repairing, No. 2864.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, New Orleans, La., for docking and repairing lighthouse tender *Magnolia*. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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TARIFF REVISION IN PORTUGAL.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Lisbon, received Dec. 23.]

The Portuguese Government will revise the tariff law at the present session of Parliament.

HEMP SHIPMENTS FROM ITALY.

The American ambassador at Rome, under date of December 24, cabled that the Ministry of Finance of the Italian Government stated that the quantity of hemp free for exportation in January will be rather small.

All applications for permits for hemp from the Italian Government should be received by the Secretary of Commerce, Washington, D. C., not later than January 10, 1916. These applications should state the quantity and grade of hemp purchased, and the names of the foreign firms with whom negotiations have been carried on. As soon as these applications have been received by the Department of Commerce, a cablegram will be sent, through the Department of State, at the expense of the American purchasers of this hemp, to the American ambassador at Rome for presentation to the Italian Government.

SHIPBUILDING ACTIVITY IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 23.]

The shipbuilding yards of Nervion, Spain, are being enlarged to permit of the construction of vessels of 1,500 to 5,000 tons for the Spanish merchant marine.

The Peruvian Government is considering the construction of a cruiser by the Sociedad Española at Ferrol, to displace 2,850 tons, at a cost of \$1,260,000. It is not improbable that orders for other vessels will be placed there by Peru.

The new shipbuilding yards of the Sociedad Española de Construcciones Navales, of Bilbao, are shortly to begin on the building of vessels for the Compañía Transatlántica, of Barcelona.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LEGISLATION.

An indication of the rapid growth of the idea of compensation of workmen for injuries received in the course of employment as a substitute for the old liability acts is given in Bulletin No. 185, issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. The bulletin presents the legislation for the years 1914 and 1915, together with amendments to a number of earlier laws, which in some cases are so extensive as to necessitate the reprinting of the entire law. This bulletin is in effect a supplement to Bulletin No. 126, issued two years ago as a complete compilation up to that date of existing legislation in this field.

The legislation of the year 1914 included three States—Kentucky, Louisiana, and Maryland. One of these laws, that of Kentucky, was declared unconstitutional before it came into operation. That of Maryland superseded an earlier statute reported as unworkable. The new laws of 1915 cover eight States—Colorado, Indiana, Maine, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wyoming—besides the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii. The legislation of 1914 included also a presidential order providing a compensation system for employees of the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad, while that of the current year includes a similar order extending the Federal compensation act of 1908 to workmen engaged on or about the Government railway in Alaska. With the legislation of these two years, 31 States and the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii now have compensation laws. A Federal statute covers also about one-fourth of the civilian employees of the United States. All of this legislation has been enacted since 1908, and practically all of the existing legislation in the States since 1910.

Of the new laws of 1914 and 1915, one, that of Wyoming, must be classed as a compulsory insurance law, while those of Maryland and Oklahoma are compulsory compensation laws. In the other States, eight in number, the law permits the employer to elect or reject the compensation act. In case he rejects it, however, he is deprived of the customary defenses under the liability laws.

SUMATRA COFFEE NOT TO BE LABELED "JAVA."

Food Inspection Decision No. 82, which limits the use of the term "Java," under the food and drugs act, to coffee produced on the island of Java, will not be changed, according to a forthcoming issue of the Service and Regulatory Announcements of the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture. Certain firms in the coffee trade requested the Bureau of Chemistry to recommend the modification of Food Inspection Decision No. 82, to the extent of allowing coffee produced on the island of Sumatra, or other islands of the Dutch East Indies, to be imported and shipped into interstate commerce as Java coffee.

It was claimed by the trade that the coffee produced on the island of Sumatra was equal or superior in quality to that produced on the island of Java. The Bureau of Chemistry is of the opinion that, under the terms of the food and drugs act, even if the coffee produced on the island of Sumatra is equal or superior to that produced on the island of Java, it can not be imported into this country or shipped into interstate commerce labeled as Java coffee.

COMMUNITY COTTON GROWING IN IRRIGATED SOUTHWEST.

Stabilization, or the continuous production of a crop with a fixed high quality of fiber, is the great problem now confronting many sections of the cotton belt, says a new publication of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 324. Although this bulletin deals primarily with the production of Durango cotton in the Imperial Valley of California, much of the information which it contains is applicable to other cotton-growing communities.

For the Imperial Valley no other variety of long-staple upland cotton has been found as suitable as the Durango. This variety, which produces fiber from $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, yields as well as short-staple varieties, but brings better net returns. To realize the full possibilities in the industry, however, community action is essential. It requires community action to insure an adequate supply of pure seed, to turn out from the gin a smooth sample without defects, and to establish a reputation for a consistently high quality of cotton.

These factors have been realized in the Imperial Valley, and the bulletin already mentioned points out the extent to which the development of the industry has been favored by the organization of the Imperial Valley Long-Staple Cotton Growers' Association.

The 1914 crop in the Imperial Valley consisted of 34,900 bales of short-staple cotton, 8,000 bales of long-staple Upland, and 100 bales of Egyptian. Of approximately 600 cotton growers in the Imperial Valley about 150 were producing Durango cotton. If the producers of short-staple cotton could be induced to adopt the Durango variety the problem of maintaining an adequate supply of pure seed would be greatly simplified and the interests of the entire community greatly enhanced.

FORECASTS MADE FOR VARIOUS CROPS IN INDIA.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has received publications from the Departments of Land Records of the Punjab and Burma giving, respectively, the second forecast of the sugar-cane crop and the second forecast of the sesamum crop of the Punjab for 1915 and the summary of the first forecast of the rice crop in Burma for 1915-16.

In the second forecast of the sugar-cane crop of the Punjab for 1915 the revised estimate of area up to the end of September amounts to 354,032 acres (including 1,232 acres conventionally estimated), as compared with 396,090 acres in the corresponding forecast last year. In the second forecast of the sesamum crop of the Punjab for 1915 the revised estimate of area up to the end of September amounts to 106,794 acres (including 8,094 acres conventionally estimated), as compared with 154,620 acres in the corresponding forecast of last year.

The first provincial forecast of the rice crop in Burma for 1915-16 shows 10,088,472 acres, against 10,112,819 acres estimated on the corresponding date of last year, a decrease of 24,347 acres.

[These publications may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to File No. 70265. The bureau has also received other crop forecasts from India, which were offered for inspection in COMMERCE REPORTS for December 10, 1915.]

WORK OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

Among the unusual work done in November by the United States Bureau of Standards may be mentioned two large turnbuckles for the Geological Survey, and a tensile test upon a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wire rope submitted by the Panama Canal. A 4,000-pound spring testing machine at the Washington Navy Yard was calibrated up to its full capacity. The engineering testing included 51 samples of miscellaneous materials and 29 engineering instruments.

In the experimental rubber laboratory 34 rubber compounds were mixed, of which 11 were made into tubing for service tests in the laboratory and 23 compounds were made into test sheets for a study of their physical properties.

As a result of the bureau's cooperation with the General Supply Committee of the Government, specifications have been developed for four kinds of lubricating oil which will be purchased on specification during the next year.

A photographic lens for the extreme-speed Naval motion-picture camera, a microscope objective, and several small lenses were tested for the Navy Department. A complete test of a photographic lens was made for an optical company. The radii of curvature, refractive index, and powers of 116 lenses were measured for a primary standard trial set.

Tests were made on the heat loss through the different sides of a model beehive for one of the bureaus of the Department of Agriculture. In addition the necessary apparatus was loaned and installed for measuring the temperatures in the interior of cotton bales in connection with some experiments being conducted by one of the bureaus of that department.

The Aviation Board has asked the bureau to cooperate on the question of the production and properties of noncorrosive light alloys.

The Chief of the Metallurgical Division visited a large steel company to witness the splitting of a special steel ingot and to confer regarding ingot practice; called on a representative of the Pennsylvania Railroad to confer regarding Hadfield rail tests, and inspected failed mammoth valve castings of the New York Water Board.

London Rubber Trade Statistics for October.

The statistics of the Rubber Trade Association of London for October, giving the imports into and the exports from the United Kingdom of all kinds of rubber, for the month and for the 10 months ended October, 1915, compared with similar periods in 1914 and 1913, and the imports, deliveries, and stocks in London and Liverpool for October, 1915, have been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. They may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. Refer to file No. 70282. The statistics for the six months preceding October were offered for inspection in the issue of COMMERCE REPORTS for December 3, 1915.

A representative of the United States Bureau of Standards has visited leading steel mills and laboratories in Pennsylvania to gather first-hand information as to chemical methods of iron and steel analysis, with special consideration of features of importance in the cooperative analysis of the bureau's standard irons and steels.

SHOEMAKING AS A TRADE FOR WOMEN.

A study of the boot and shoe industry in Massachusetts as a vocation for women is the subject of Bulletin No. 180, issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. Four important shoe centers in Massachusetts were chosen for the inquiry, namely, Boston and Chelsea, Brockton and near-by towns, Lynn and Beverly, and Marlboro.

The method of the study included visits to 80 factories in the four localities selected; rates of pay and earnings were studied, based on the pay rolls of 18 factories and over 4,400 women shoe operatives. Information in regard to the physical conditions under which the women were working and living was in all cases based upon personal inspections. The majority of women workers were employed in the stitching room, a smaller number in the packing room, while in every room table work is done by women and minors. Outside of these occupations men performed all of the operations in the factory. Massachusetts women have not yet entered the cutting rooms except at skiving. The packing-room work, formerly done by men, is now almost completely in the hands of women. Women are also found in the lasting room at assembling machines and doing eyeletting and buttonhole making.

The study of pay rolls in this investigation showed wide differences in the earnings in the several localities, the proportion earning less than \$8 in the week when the greatest number were employed, varying from 24 per cent in Brockton to 42 per cent in Lynn, while the proportions earning over \$10 a week varied from 34 per cent in Marlboro to 54 per cent in Brockton. According to Massachusetts statistics for 1911 the seasonal fluctuations in shoe factories are greater than in any other industry except the men's and women's clothing industries.

Of the women who worked 46 weeks or more, all adult, experienced, and steady workers, three-fifths earned less than \$500 a year, and not far from one-half earned only \$450 or less. Unquestionably, however, these earnings exceed those of any other large body of factory workers.

In summing up the results of the study as to earnings, the bulletin notes that three points stand out prominently: The fluctuations in the industry which debar many of the workers from steady employment; factory unemployment or temporary lack of work for those who nominally are steadily employed; and, partly as a consequence of this irregularity of work, the low weekly wage even of steady and experienced workers when earnings are distributed over the year.

COFFEE STOCKS IN DENMARK.

[Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Dec. 2.]

The total import of coffee into Denmark for November, 1915, was some 29,000 sacks, as compared with 43,000 sacks for October, 1915, and 20,600 sacks for November, 1914.

The stock on hand December 1, 1915, was as follows: Java coffee, 11,700 sacks; Brazilian coffee, 23,500 sacks; and other sorts, 15,700 sacks; making a total stock of 50,900 sacks.

At the close of October, 1915, the stock consisted of 48,600 sacks, as against 27,600 sacks for corresponding period in 1914.

OBSTACLES TO TRADE EXTENSION IN PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Oct. 13.]

In order to ascertain the actual working of Foreign Trade Opportunity notices, the Lisbon consulate general addressed 25 letters to concerns in Portugal which had made use of them through this office. A number of the replies contain valuable hints as to the obstacles to the development of trade with Portugal and are quoted herewith with names omitted. Regarding steel wire ropes the inquirer wrote:

Thanks to your kindness in the matter, we have received communications from the following well-known firms. * * * We fully recognize that these are the best American firms in the trade, and we are very grateful to you for having put us in touch with them.

Unfortunately our clients find the prices excessively high, and it has been impossible to get the inquiries we have on hand confirmed. We are of opinion, however, that clients will be obliged to buy sooner or later from America, as there is a great shortage of wire ropes on the market and very few ropes are finding their way to Portugal from Great Britain. We hope we shall be able to put through some orders with your American friends before long.

Another firm reported the placing of a trial order for 10 tons each of steel bands and annealed baling wire.

Wanted Direct Connections.

A wish to deal direct with the manufacturer was the reason for a Lisbon oilcloth importer's failure to make American connections. He wrote:

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 21st instant, and in reply wish to mention that we have received offers for the supply of oilcloth from two firms, both being obviously commission merchants. Unfortunately we were not able to place orders, as the conditions were too unfavorable: Cash against documents in New York, as well as confirmed banker's credit for the value of every order. German and Belgian factories supply c. i. f. Lisbon and give 2 per cent discount for cash within either 30 days of date of shipment or 30 days after arrival.

We much regret that we can not deal with commission houses, for as soon as hostilities cease in Europe they would have to compete with factories having long-established business relations and dealing direct with the local consumers, and naturally the factories would not be long in getting the better. We are therefore obliged to treat only with manufacturers and wish to work the business on an agency basis on our own account; i. e., that the factory invoices and sells only to us at lowest prices and we resell to the customers here, thus avoiding for the factory any risks with the traders.

"Cash in New York" Not Satisfactory.

The severity of the terms imposed was complained of by several local firms in whose behalf Trade Opportunities were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS**, one of whom stated:

Payment of invoices in New York against shipping documents and the expensive banking charges for opening direct credits or through London make it very difficult to do business with America. Germany used to sell its goods on time or at least with payment in Lisbon against documents. The latter method offers sufficient guaranty, and it would be of great value if the American exporters would modify under present circumstances their demands as regards payment. Payment in Lisbon against documents would doubtless open the way for many American articles into Portugal.

I note with pleasure your desire to improve commercial relations between America and Portugal, and thank you for the kind way in which you have handled my request. I am expecting to hear from other firms that may use my services to represent them here for the sale of wheat, corn, and cotton.

Another, who received 14 offers of druggists' supplies, voiced the same complaint. An inquirer for sulphur and sulphate of copper

could get no information as to the cost of transportation, which rendered the f. o. b. prices given him quite useless.

Exchange, Freight, and Terms all Deterrents.

Portuguese importers are greatly handicapped by the low rate of exchange, extremely high freights from American ports, and the severe terms of cash before shipment demanded by many manufacturers and exporters. The conservative houses seem inclined to avoid extensive purchases as they realize the end of the war might leave them with a stock of costly merchandise on hand. Aside from actual orders placed, I am sure the advertising of American goods among Portuguese houses will be of great value in the future development of the commerce of the two countries.

ACTIVITIES OF MANCHESTER COTTON ASSOCIATION.

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, England, Dec. 1.]

In connection with the annual report on commerce and industries of this consulate (Supplement to COMMERCE REPORTS, April 13, 1915), and the report for 1914, of the activities of the Manchester Cotton Association, contained on pages 12 and 13 of that report, the Manchester Guardian of December 1, 1915, contains an account of the meeting of this association for 1915, which was held in Manchester on November 30. At the invitation of the president and directors of the association, the American consul attended the meeting and listened to the review of the year's work by the president, who said, in part:

Despite the war the importations of American cotton last season (Aug. 1 to July 31) were the highest in the history of the association, reaching 620,487 bales, or an increase of 16.9 per cent over the preceding season, and representing 15.3 per cent of all American cotton imported into this country. So far this season 134,000 bales have been shipped to Manchester, compared with 85,000 bales at the corresponding time last season.

The Egyptian imports showed a great falling off, being, in round figures, 150,000 bales, against 230,000 bales. This was mainly accounted for by the decreased consumption, so many of the Bolton mills having to run short time owing to the export of yarn to belligerent countries being stopped. So far this season 61,000 bales have been shipped to Manchester, against 31,000 last season. Under the unfavorable conditions, and in the absence of any futures market here, the decrease in imports of Egyptian was not remarkable.

After referring to the variations in the prices of cotton, the president observed there were many people who believed that 4½d. (9 cents) would be about the ruling price for the crop, but there were various reasons why such a low price was impossible. "The American mills," he said, "are very large consumers, and they will shortly be using twice as much cotton as we do, and if, as we expect, the crop will be about 12,000,000 bales, nearly 7,000,000 bales may be consumed in America. The Continent and Japan are importing freely, and have so far taken 385,000 bales more than Great Britain."

Taking the trade as a whole, he thought Lancashire had done better than anticipated. Stocks of yarns had largely disappeared, and a distinctly more healthy feeling prevailed. The home trade had been, and continued, excellent, and the high wages earned meant more spending power to the masses of the people.

[Figures relating to Manchester's imports of raw cotton were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 8, 1915.]

PLANS TO AWARD PHILIPPINE SUGAR-MILL CONTRACT.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Nov. 2.]

Announcement is made by the Government of the Philippines that the British firm which was successful in bidding on the erection of the new \$1,000,000 sugar central to be erected by the Government for a milling company in Isabela Province, in line with the policy adopted some time ago of Government aid for such institutions, has been unable to sign a definite contract for the construction of the mill in time for the grinding season of 1916-17, on account of the fact that the British Government may require the use of the factories in Great Britain on which the bidders relied for the machinery and supplies for the central. It is explained that while it is unlikely that these factories will actually be required by the Government of Great Britain, the latter has already commandeered materials which were to be used for the machinery for the Philippine concern, and the possibility of interference is such that the company can not definitely agree to finish the work in the islands by the required time.

It was also found impossible, or at least impracticable, to secure insurance to cover the possibility of loss in case the British concern failed to finish the central on contract time. Since the commencement of the central in Isabela by the British concern under the circumstances would at best place the whole enterprise in danger of being tied up indefinitely, the negotiations were abandoned. Bids will be called for later for the erection of the plant in time for the 1917-18 grinding season. The mill must be finished by December, 1917, if it is to be ready for the 1917-18 sugar crop.

Similar Situation All Over the Far East.

The state of affairs brought out in connection with this very important enterprise in the Philippines characterizes the situation all over the Far East. Quotations are being made by European firms for goods of many sorts which they can only agree to supply subject to war risks and the interference of the Government with their plans. This has been particularly true in machinery trades and in the trade in iron and steel and similar products.

Under the circumstances, American concerns have an advantage in the trade, which is quite apparent as regards deliveries and the ability to actually produce goods contracted for; but it is evident that under the policy followed by firms of belligerent connections the operations of American concerns in such matters are not without competition, or at least without opposition.

Business Conditions—Share of Neutral Countries in Trade.

Unfortunately, business conditions generally and financial conditions in particular are such as to encourage the postponement of nearly all lines of industrial improvement, the erection of factories, the equipment of industrial plants with new machinery, and the general advancement of the country in industrial and mechanical lines.

Other neutral countries, as well as the United States, are coming to have an increased share of the trade in all such lines, especially in machinery, including marine and other motors, dynamos, accumulators, and all kinds of electrical machinery and appliances. In practically all lines American manufacturers have the advantage, however, and, while present business is not very brisk, the concern

with established connections will undoubtedly have the trade immediately following the close of the war.

[The Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department, as stated in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 4, 1915, has already announced that the contract for the sugar central in Isabela Province will be awarded about one month after Apr. 15, 1916. The exact time when the bids will close is not known, but these details are included in the specifications, which are now on the way from the Philippine Islands to Washington and are expected to arrive late this month or early in January, 1916.]

SPAIN'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FOR NINE MONTHS.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 13.]

El Economista, published in Madrid, compares the exports and imports of Spain for the first nine months of 1915 with the trade of the first nine months of 1914 and 1913. The amounts are given in pesetas. This unit of value has fluctuated, during the periods mentioned, between 18.5 cents and 20.5 cents. The present quotation for a peseta, in United States currency, is about 19.2 cents. The figures for the three years are:

Classes of shipments.	1913	1914	1915
IMPORTS.			
Live stock.....	<i>Pesetas.</i> 21,426,611	<i>Pesetas.</i> 7,315,738	<i>Pesetas.</i> 2,296,146
Raw material.....	385,423,618	359,888,361	410,802,124
Manufactured goods.....	381,204,127	273,608,993	152,420,014
Foodstuffs.....	186,030,789	197,956,824	169,783,105
	974,145,345	838,769,916	735,301,389
Gold, coin and other.....	151,200	10,988,080	96,326,140
Silver, coin and other.....	1,459,950	2,062,030	1,498,824
Total.....	975,756,495	851,760,026	833,126,353
EXPORTS.			
Live stock.....	17,016,187	5,267,890	1,780,256
Raw material.....	259,170,752	211,104,760	162,955,610
Manufactured goods.....	191,519,010	164,204,148	408,813,622
Foodstuffs.....	308,326,742	251,303,806	278,866,412
	776,032,691	631,880,664	903,915,900
Gold, coin and other.....	688,400	234,000	215,680
Silver, coin and other.....	16,837,828	7,362,222	4,929,891
Total.....	793,458,919	639,476,966	912,061,631

The total export and import trade for September, 1915, was 159,753,462 pesetas (imports, 60,497,497, and exports, 99,255,965), as against 106,541,708 in 1914 and 200,347,735 in 1913. Marked increase is noted in receipts of gold, in imports of raw material, and in exports of manufactured goods. With reference to this last-mentioned class, exports of cotton goods increased from 29,000,000 pesetas in 1914 to 132,000,000 in 1915; woolen goods from 21,000,000 pesetas in 1914 to more than 130,000,000 in 1915; manufactured fur goods from 26,000,000 pesetas in 1914 to 73,000,000 in 1915.

BOHEMIAN GLASS SALES.

Bohemian manufacturers of the highest grades of cut and decorated and engraved glass are now finding an exceptionable market for their product in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Sets of wine glasses, plain and with monogram, are having an especially good market.

WELSH SHIPPING PROBLEMS AND AGRICULTURE.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, detailed as vice consul at Swansea, Nov. 9.]

Increased Price of Water for Shipping.

The Swansea water and sewers committee has decided to increase the charges for water for shipping. Previously they were 24 cents for 100 gallons for domestic purposes and 12 cents for water for boilers, and it was decided to make the charge a general one of 24 cents for 100 gallons. This new rate came into operation November 1. It is believed that it will mean, about \$5,000 a year toward the rates.

Efforts to Relieve Scarcity of Tonnage.

At a meeting of the Swansea Harbor Trust, November 8, it was stated that on the whole the trade of the port for October was slightly reverting to the shrinkage formerly suffered. The accounts for September showed a loss of \$8,370, as compared with the loss of \$28,829 in the corresponding period of last year. The chairman of the finance committee stated that it was an indication of what their earnings might be could they only obtain the necessary steamers for shipment of cargoes.

There has been such a shortage of their particular class of steamers that the coal exporters were seriously hampered. That condition extended also to the collieries, for necessarily they must keep up their output, and when they could not get ships and facilities they were placed in difficulties. Most collieries are not well provided with storage accommodations, making the difficulties very great between the carriers, the railway companies, and the Harbor Trust itself, as receivers. A committee has been appointed to inspect the work at the docks, to see if matters can be relieved in any way.

Discovery of New Seam of Coal.

A new seam of coal, believed to be a 7-foot seam, has been discovered during the sinking operations at a colliery at Port Talbot. The coal has a thickness of 4 feet 6 inches, and is reported to be of excellent quality. When fully developed the mine will give employment to about 500 men.

Report on Teaching of Agriculture.

The annual report of the board of agriculture on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in 1914-15 contains interesting references to Wales and Monmouthshire. Dealing with the establishment of an agricultural council for Wales, it states that arrangements have now been made by which all the counties of Wales, with the exception of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire, are grouped into areas and affiliated, respectively, with Aberystwyth and Bangor University colleges. In the counties so grouped the agricultural departments of the colleges are responsible for the whole of the agricultural work carried out in the counties. At Aberystwyth the work of the college has developed considerably in connection with the extension of farm-institute work. A special investigation has been undertaken with a view to discovering a remedy for the infertility caused by the drainage from the lead mines in the district.

PROSPECT OF MINING RESUMPTION IN MEXICO.

[Consul Wilbert L. Bonney, San Luis Potosi, Oct. 18.]

For the first time this year there appears to be a possibility of a gradual and partial resumption of mining and ore treatment in the San Luis Potosi district. The operation of these industries depends upon so many diverse factors that it is impossible to set any date for resumption, but conditions are now more favorable and the problems of operation are being taken up for solution.

The mines can not work until the smelters can take care of their product, and the smelters require regular transportation and the use of 60 to 80 cars per day continually for their operations. It is further necessary to assemble foreign employees from various parts of the United States and to have a stock on hand and a continuous inflow of supplies, such as dynamite, cyanide, coke, oil, chemicals, and repair parts which have become entirely exhausted. For the operation of the lead smelter it is necessary to purchase lead, copper, lime rock, and other ores for making the necessary combinations, and some of these ingredients must be brought from distant parts.

Transportation a Vital Question.

For the financing of all these operations it is necessary that the product be exported and sold promptly, and in order to avoid an expensive shutdown all the processes must be continuous. San Luis Potosi depends upon the Tampico Railway for nearly all of its heavy freight, and that line must be kept open if the lead smelter is to operate. The minimum steamer load of coke arriving at Tampico for the smelter is 3,000 tons, or about 150 carloads.

The experience of the smelters has been unfortunate for the last two years and attempts to operate in other districts have served to discourage the San Luis Potosi smelters. The Monterey Smelter No. 3, which has the advantage of proximity to the frontier and to the Coahuila coal fields, attempted to resume in July; and after about three weeks, during which stocks on hand were used up, it was found impossible to continue by reason of failure of transportation. The smelter company bought and paid for 25 cars of oil in Tampico, but was able to secure delivery of only 5 cars. In San Luis Potosi the cost of coke and other heavy material by rail from the frontier is prohibitive; they must come by water to Tampico.

Lack of Water—Wage Difficulties.

In addition to the necessities already named, the smelter must have a constant supply of water in its dams. The 1915 season has been dry, and there is not at present sufficient water for use of the smelter. Considerable local difficulty is experienced on account of new and increased wage demands, and careful negotiation in this respect will be necessary. Difficulties are also experienced by reason of the fluctuation of the paper money in which labor is paid.

In these circumstances individuals operating small mines will find it practicable to begin taking out ore while the large organized companies are discussing the solution of their various problems. The conditions herein described apply to the mining and smelting of silver, lead, copper, antimony, and sulphur.

CHILEAN NITRATE INDUSTRY.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaíso.]

Government Assistance to Nitrate Producers.

By decree No. 2157 of the Ministry of Hacienda the scope of the loans to nitrate producers is extended to include nitrate works renewing operation and which have not a quantity of stored nitrate on hand.

The law, No. 2918, promulgated in August, 1914, provided for a loan by the Government of 3 pesos (at present exchange of 9 pence, equal to 54 cents United States currency), per Spanish quintal (101.4 pounds) of stored nitrate held by the producers, and of 4 pesos (equal at 9 pence exchange to 72 cents United States currency) per Spanish quintal of nitrate at ports, ready for shipment.

The decree No. 2157 authorizes a Government advance to nitrate producers at the former rate, even though the nitrate oficinas have no stock on hand, on the basis of the average production in periods of three months prior to the closing of the works.

Increase in Producing Capacity of Nitrate Plants.

The "Compañía de Salitres de Antofagasta," which has its principal office in Valparaíso, has announced that it proposes to increase its producing capacity through the construction of an entirely new oficina or reduction works. This new plant will be located in the district known as Salinas Norte not far distant from Baquedano, which is the point where the Longitudinal Railway crosses the Antofagasta to Bolivia line. The new nitrate field will be connected with the Longitudinal Railway by a line about 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) long, which will be constructed by the nitrate company. It is estimated that the capacity of the new oficina will be about 2,000,000 quintals, of 101.4 pounds each, per annum.

The same company has also recently purchased the oficina "Riviera," which has not been operating for a long time. This plant has a production of about 600,000 quintals per year. This company was already the largest producer of nitrate of soda in Chile, and the two plants mentioned will place it still further in the lead. It has been stated that the new plant projected may be in operation by the end of 1916.

Completion of the new plant "Oficina Agusté Victoria," under construction for the firm of Gildemeister & Co., of Antofagasta, is now going on. Plants of other companies which have been idle since the outbreak of the war are again resuming operations, so that the nitrate supply will be able to supply any probable demand in the near future. Early estimates of the probable exportation in 1916 set the figure at 60,000,000 quintals.

Production for October.

The production of nitrate of soda in Chile during the month of October, 1915, has been reported to be about 4,873,000 quintals of 101.4 pounds each. This showed an increase of 1,381,000 quintals over September, 1915, and an increase of 1,907,000 quintals over the month of October, 1914.

For the first time since the beginning of the war the exportation was lower than the production. The shipments of nitrate during

October were 3,712,000 quintals, or 1,161,000 quintals less than the production, although the exportation during 1915 was greater by 2,199,000 quintals than in October, 1914.

The falling off in shipments was due primarily to the interruptions to traffic through the Panama Canal. The closing of the canal also had a great effect on speculative dealings in nitrate for prompt delivery. At the end of September and in the earlier days of October the market for nitrate for early delivery was firm with constantly rising prices. Transactions for 95 per cent nitrate at as high as 9s. 6d. (\$2.31) were made for deliveries within three months. At present (Nov. 18) quotations are about 8s. 7d. (\$2.08) per quintal for three months' delivery.

The interest in refined nitrate is comparatively slight and ranges in price about 3d. per quintal over the 95 per cent grade. Freight for the United States via the straits are about \$17 per ton, an increase of about \$4 per ton in cost of shipment via the Panama Canal. The increase of freight charges also had an effect in reducing the price of nitrate on this coast.

DISINFECTION OF FOREIGN COTTON SAMPLES.

To guard against the danger that the pink boll worm and other dangerous cotton insects may be introduced into this country through samples of foreign cotton lint sent by mail, the Post Office Department, at the request of the Department of Agriculture, has prohibited the use of the mails for such cotton. The only exception is that cotton samples may be sent in the mails from the Mexican States of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, Durango, Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, and Lower California.

The Post Office instructions require postmasters to cause such foreign cotton samples from other than these Mexican States to be returned at once to the point of origin. The Federal Horticultural Board is bringing this order to the attention of cotton importers and urging them to notify their foreign shippers at once and to warn them not to make further mail sendings.

Cotton samples which have been forwarded by freight or express in compliance with the regulations of the Department of Agriculture must be disinfected by representatives of the Federal Horticultural Board, after which the disinfected samples may be distributed without any restrictions, by mail or otherwise.

In addition to the above instruction, the Federal Horticultural Board shortly will issue, as Service and Regulatory Announcements (1) forms for application for license authorizing brokers to purchase imported cotton; (2) instructions regarding the screening and safeguarding of warehouses and rooms in which imported cotton is handled in the process of opening and cleaning; and (3) instructions for safeguarding of foreign cotton in storage and process of manufacture.

Importers or manufacturers of foreign cotton may obtain these forms and regulations on application to the Federal Horticultural Board, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A NEW PHILIPPINE OIL NUT.

[The Philippine Craftsman.]

A new oil nut has just been discovered by accident. Some months ago 25 bags of an oil-bearing nut were sent to Manila from Catanduanes by a person who thought he was sending lumbang nuts. The person to whom they were sent saw at a glance that they were not lumbang, but he did not know what they were. He got in touch with the Bureau of Science, which was unable to identify the plant by the nut alone, but offered to extract the oil and investigate. This bureau found that the nut produced 45 per cent of a dark, fatty, nondrying oil that made very good soap. Some time later leaves and wood were secured, and Botanist E. D. Merrill was able definitely to classify it as *Chisochiton cumingianus* (Harms) of the natural family Melicaceae, the order to which santol belongs. He also stated that the field labels indicate it as "abundant," and that no information as to the presence of oil in the seed was on hand.

The recorded native names are: In Catanduanes and Camarines, balucanag; in Benguet and Union, batuakan; in Laguna, balucanag, kalimotain, salaguin; in Cagayan, marambolo, akalsa, macalsa; in Bataan, cato; in Albay, dudoa; in Bukidnon, valita; and in Negros, malacalad. The fruit grows to the size of a double fist in very large numbers on very large forest trees, each of the fruits having four seeds or "nuts" in them. The Philippine Manufacturing Co., of Manila, has had two shipments of the nuts, one being of 288 piculs (39,600 pounds). The oil is used for soap and the company pronounces it satisfactory.

The person who investigated this product in Catanduanes states that over 30 years ago this oil was the illuminant used by everybody. Then when petroleum was introduced it was gradually abandoned until no one of the present generation even knows about it or has ever seen the oil extracted or used. Of 20 persons in one group in Virac, one old man alone remembered that the process was used in his boyhood, and described, to the surprise of the others, the press they used and the "kinki" in which they burned the oil.

A commercial bulletin has been published by the American consulate at La Guaira, Venezuela, containing the names and addresses of those firms in the United States that have asked for the assistance of the consulate in extending their foreign trade during the three months ended November 15, 1915. A copy of this publication has been received from Consul Homer Brett and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 70,253.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewis, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 402, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.
Bonney, Wilbert L.....	San Luis Potosi, Mexico.....	Feb. 13	1905 North Bush Street, Santa Ana, Cal.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Cannajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

* Consul Wilbert L. Bonney shall visit San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, Cal., and San Antonio, Tex., and will advise the Chamber of Commerce in each of these cities of his arrival and address.

HOW TO FACILITATE CONSULAR INVESTIGATIONS.

[Consul Thomas D. Bowman, Fernie, Canada, Nov. 24.]

A few American manufacturers in writing to this office have submitted, by way of helpful suggestion, a list of the classes of concerns that have used or kept in stock for sale such products as the manufacturers are seeking to sell. This has proved very helpful in enabling this office to investigate more intelligently the possibilities of a market in such lines.

The consul is not familiar with the uses of every product manufactured, and sometimes he is at a loss to know in just what branches of industry he should make inquiry regarding the possibility of future trade.

BUILDING SOCIETY'S MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Nov. 19.]

The fifty-first annual meeting of the Huddersfield Equitable Permanent Benefit Building Society was recently held, and the directors were able to report that the year ended August 31, 1915, was the most successful in the history of the society. The number of shareholders increased from 8,913 to 9,521; the number of shares from 25,145 to 26,021; the amount due to shareholders is \$3,018,845; the amount due to depositors, \$1,453,419; the amount loaned out, \$4,438,968. The profits enabled the directors to declare a bonus to members for the forty-second year in succession.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and the file number given.

Cement, iron products, malt, etc., No. 19659.—A man in Brazil informs an American consular officer that he desires to receive names and addresses of firms exporting cement, iron products, malt, hops, and essences for soap manufacture.

Paint spray machinery, No. 19660.—A firm in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of paint spray machinery.

Hardware, etc., No. 19661.—An American consular officer in Paraguay reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase cartridges, axes, hatchets, nails, agateware, and calcium carbide. Correspondence and catalogues should be in Spanish and weights and measurements should be, if possible, in the metric system.

Wall paper, No. 19662.—An American consular officer in England reports that a firm in his district desires to obtain names of manufacturers of wall paper. Samples and prices are requested. Bank references are given.

Sheet and plate glass, No. 19663.—A report from an American consular officer states that a firm of wholesale glass merchants in Wales desires to receive c. i. f. quotations on plate and sheet glass, in cases containing 300 feet, each sheet being 60 by 40 inches. Plate glass, one-fourth inch in thickness, in various sizes and designs are also required.

Lumber and structural materials, No. 19664.—A firm in Kongo informs an American consular officer that it desires to establish commercial relations with exporters of pitch, white and russet pine, iron bars and cross pieces, galvanized corrugated sheet iron for roofing, Portland cement, etc. A diagram showing shape of boards desired, together with dimensions, may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 70182.)

Women's coats, etc., No. 19665.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm desires to communicate with manufacturers of women's cloaks, golf coats, dresses, and materials for making same. The inquirer states that all sales would be on a commission basis of 5 per cent or more according to arrangements. The sole agency for that country is wanted. Bank references are given.

Beer, No. 19666.—Two companies in Burma inform an American consular officer that they desire to obtain agencies for American beer. Quotations c. i. f. port of destination, with samples, are requested. Bank references are given.

Typewriters, etc., No. 19667.—A commercial agent of the bureau reports that a commission agent in Salvador desires to communicate with manufacturers of typewriters and various other articles manufactured in the United States.

Novelties, No. 19668.—A letter to the bureau states that a traveling representative of a large company desires to carry side lines of standard or novelty articles on his trips to Australia and New Zealand. References are given.

Steel plates, flour, shoes, etc., No. 19669.—A commercial agent of the bureau reports that a man in Norway desires to purchase steel plates and machinery for shipbuilding, flour, shoes, and molasses. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English.

Willow, No. 19670.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a furniture company in his district is in the market for willow suitable for making furniture. It is stated that a carload a month can be used if the price is satisfactory. A sample of the willow desired may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 70224.) Correspondence may be in English or French, but the latter is preferred.

Electrical supplies, No. 19671.—A firm in Siberia informs an American consular officer that it desires to be placed in communication with an electrical engineer, who would be willing to act as agent for the purchase of electrical goods. It is stated that the firm will reimburse the representative for cable and incidental outlays, and allow him a small commission on all purchases made. Correspondence may be in English.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 304 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, December 29 1915

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EMBARGO ON LOGWOOD IN JAMAICA.

[Cablegram from American ambassador, London, Dec. 23.]

The foreign office states that the demand for logwood has very largely increased all over the world, which has made it imperative that the British Government prohibit the exportation (except to the United Kingdom) of dyewoods from Jamaica and British Honduras. A sufficient quantity of wood having been obtained by British consumers, the governor of Jamaica has been directed to allow the exportation of about 4,700 tons of dyewood which was awaiting shipment when the embargo was declared. The foreign office states that the United States imports this commodity largely from Mexico and Haiti and that the normal annual importation from Jamaica is below 20,000 tons. The foreign office requests me in transmitting information as to measures being taken by the British Government to facilitate the raising of the embargo in favor of American manufacturers to explain that such action must necessarily be conditional on the resumption of the exportation of reasonable quantities of logwood extract from the United States to Canada.

The Department of Commerce is informed through reliable sources that one of the principal reasons why the British Government placed an embargo upon the exportation of logwood from Jamaica and British Honduras was the fact that American manufacturers of logwood extract increased their prices materially to Canadian and

British purchasers of this material, and in some cases even repudiated contracts made with the purchasers.

The import statistics for 1914 show that approximately two-thirds of the dyewoods entering the United States (about 20,000 tons) was imported from Jamaica, the remaining supply coming largely from Haiti.

LOGWOOD IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

[Special Agent Garrard Harria.]

In November, 1914, there were many tons of logwood in British Honduras, and it had been there for a long time, the market having gone down to such a point as to make the further cutting unprofitable. A firm in Belize owns a line of power boats running up the Belize River toward The Cayo, and they can bring down the wood from the Guatemalan frontier and from the edge of Mexico. This firm in the past has dealt in logwood and is able to get it out, having an organization for the purpose. There is also in Belize a live man who is interested in marketing woods, and he could undoubtedly get some supplied out of Paya Obispo, Mexico, just above Belize. It can be brought down by light-draft boats.

Going further down, take the Lake Ysabal district, which has its outlet at Livingston, Guatemala. Consul Edward Reed can undoubtedly put inquirers in touch with parties who would be only too glad to get the contracts at this time, and for the fustic (yellow dye) as well. The Lake Ysabal district is a large one, and there is plenty of both these woods to be had there. Some of it—limited quantities—can be gotten at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, and the consuls at Puerto Cortez, La Ceiba, and the consular agencies along the coast there, if called upon, can furnish a surprising supply by passing the word out that there is a market for it. A good deal can be gotten about Bluefields and Greytown, Nicaragua.

At San Jose, Costa Rica, I was urged particularly by a dealer to try to help him find a market for logwood and fustic; he controls large areas bearing plenty of this wood.

In Cuba there is a good deal of logwood—"palo campêche" it is termed here—and the fustic, or yellow wood, is also reasonably abundant. In times past, when the price was an inducement, it passed out of Santiago, Tunias, and Guantanamo in quantity. It can be had again if people will pay a profitable price for it.

NAVIGATION MOVEMENT OF HAVRE IN NOVEMBER.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, France, Dec. 8.]

The inward navigation movement of the port of Havre during November, 1915, follows: Vessels entered—15 French vessels, with a total tonnage of 21,055; 171 foreign vessels of 161,836 tons, including 110 British, 4 Dutch, 5 Danish, 43 Norwegian, 4 Swedish, 1 Russian, 3 Belgian, and 1 American. In the French coasting trade the number entered was 136 French vessels of 23,804 tons with cargo, and 220 vessels of 53,699 tons in ballast, all coming from French ports.

The single American vessel mentioned above as entered during the month was the *Georgiana*, of Savannah, which remains in port at this writing.

AMERICAN TRADE BY CUSTOMS DISTRICTS.

The imports, duties collected, and exports for the week ending December 25, 1915, at the 13 principal customs districts of the United States, handling 88 per cent of total imports and 93 per cent of total exports, based on transactions in the month of October, 1915, follow:

Districts.	Imports.	Duties collected.	Exports.
Georgia (Savannah).....	\$3,522	\$1,014	\$1,029,270
Massachusetts (Boston).....	4,395,793	98,917	2,698,524
New York.....	20,250,385	2,244,784	32,999,127
Philadelphia.....	2,075,169	110,256	501,069
Maryland (Baltimore).....	589,424	19,804	1,662,761
Virginia (Norfolk).....	25,828	3,477	1,701,698
New Orleans.....	747,405	5,662	3,148,356
Galveston.....	97,357	2,459	2,960,774
San Francisco.....	885,951	49,012	583,597
Washington (Seattle).....	606,201	7,963	2,046,886
Buffalo.....	460,425	15,166	2,118,267
Chicago.....	327,698	93,993	.....
Michigan (Detroit).....	534,434	33,359	4,080,273
Total.....	30,799,642	2,685,866	55,530,607

The cotton exported during the week ending December 25, 1914, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	14,876	Virginia.....	.....
Massachusetts.....	1,798	Galveston.....	33,636
Maryland.....	.....	New Orleans.....	25,912
New York.....	14,087	San Francisco.....	1,975
North Carolina.....	12,025	Washington.....	10,938
Philadelphia.....	.....	Total.....	121,192
South Carolina.....	5,645		

ARGENTINE RAILROAD TO ENCOURAGE COLONIZATION.

[Translation from La Prensa, Nov. 15, forwarded by Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires.]

The Buenos Aires Pacific Railway has just completed a census of the large landed properties along its lines, which are uncultivated and, therefore, unproductive. The owners have been invited to take some united action regarding these tracts, and with this end in view the railway has been studying a plan of colonization by which, using the crops obtained as a basis of value, a small rental can be paid or a similar sum deposited toward the purchase by a farmer-colonist who may be induced to occupy the soil as a cultivator.

A period of 5 to 10 years will be offered during which the price, fixed in advance, may be paid. The same railway company is trying to interest the banks so that they will take steps to loan the necessary money to facilitate the distribution of seeds, and thereby to encourage the work. The company has, therefore, established an office to direct the propaganda.

There are both irrigated and unirrigated lands to be opened to cultivation. For a careful and practical study of this plan an excursion is projected in which railway officials, bankers, and agriculturists will take part.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN 1914.

According to Bulletin 181 of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, wholesale prices in the United States, as measured by the aggregate value in exchange of 340 representative commodities, were nearly 1 per cent lower in 1914 than in 1913. In each of four groups, viz, cloths and clothing, fuel and lighting, metals and metal products, and lumber and building materials, more than half of the commodities decreased in price from 1913 to 1914. Decided decreases occurred in the yearly average prices of cotton yarns, print cloths, storm serge, silesian cloth, worsted yarns, coke, gasoline, crude petroleum, bar iron, copper ingot, sheet copper, copper wire, iron ore, pig lead, lead pipe, pig iron, cast-iron pipe, steel billets, steel tank plates, steel sheets, structural steel, pig tin, wood screws, brick in New York City, plate glass, Douglas fir, rosin, and cedar shingles. Increases in price are shown for cotton blankets, boots and shoes, leather, 10—4 bleached sheeting, quicksilver, linseed oil, turpentine, and a few other articles in the four groups named.

A majority of the articles which increased in price between 1913 and 1914 belong to the farm products and food groups. Within these two groups, comprising 124 series of price quotations, 72 commodities or grades of commodities increased in price, 44 decreased, and 8 were unchanged. The articles showing the greatest increase were corn, oats, rye, wheat, flaxseed, New York State hops, calfskins, peanuts, tobacco, canned corn, rye flour, wheat flour, fresh and evaporated apples, prunes, raisins, corn meal, sugar, cabbage, onions, potatoes, and vinegar. Some of the articles in these two groups which decreased in price were cotton, butter, canned tomatoes, coffee, lemons, and oranges.

Of 10 commodities classed as drugs or chemicals, 5 increased in price, 4 remained stationary, and 1 decreased in price in 1914, compared with 1913. The 5 articles showing an increase were alum, glycerine, grain alcohol, opium, and quinine. The article which decreased in price was wood alcohol.

Of the 340 series of prices secured by the Bureau for 1913 and 1914, 122 series showed an increase between these two years, 154 showed a decrease, while no change occurred in the case of 64 series.

RAILROAD TO EXTEND TO ARGENTINE-BOLIVIAN FRONTIER.

[Translation from *La Nación*, Nov. 18, forwarded by Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires.]

In order to act in harmony with the Bolivian Government, the President of Argentina has authorized the construction firm, Vezin & Co., to prolong northward, as far as the Argentine-Bolivian frontier, the line of the Central Northern Railway, and to place a bridge over the River La Quiaca. This work must be carried on under control of the general administration of national railways (of Argentina), which will place at the disposal of the constructing company all facilities possible to bring the work to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion.

[Articles on railway construction and development in Argentina were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 6 and June 29, 1915.]

WEEKLY STATEMENT OF THE COPPER TRADE.

The imports and exports of copper at the customs districts of New York, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington, and Michigan during the week ended December 18, 1915, follow:

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Ore, matte and regulus (copper contents).		Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.	
	Pounds.		Pounds.	
France.....			5,618	\$940
England.....	13,463	\$2,077	18,677	2,802
Canada.....	542,167	51,226	693,506	119,816
Panama.....			502,159	76,527
Mexico.....			1,236	100
Cuba.....			6,554	856
Santo Domingo.....	16,103	3,192		
Peru.....	31,510	5,670	374,200	67,363
Portuguese Africa.....			614,470	110,605
Total.....	603,243	62,165	2,306,420	379,009

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

Countries.			Countries.		
Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.			Pigs, ingots, bars, plates, and old, etc.		
Pounds.			Pounds.		
France.....	12,118,729	\$2,318,886	Brazil.....	64,072	\$11,524
Italy.....	1,531,621	296,466	Dutch East Indies.....	40,035	10,185
Netherlands.....	186,563	37,210	Russia in Asia.....	1,904,550	339,000
Norway.....	354,130	66,617	All other countries.....	73,541	15,522
Spain.....	90,373	19,864			
England.....	5,810,044	1,109,390	Total.....	22,178,658	4,224,473

INCREASED FARM PRODUCTION IN ONTARIO.

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Canada, Dec. 11.]

Comparison of the quantity of various farm products in Ontario, for the present year, with the yield of those products a year ago shows the results of the efforts that were made to secure an increase. The figures for the two years, in bushels (or tons), and the quantities per acre, are:

Products.	1914			1915		
	Acres.	Bushels.	Per acre.	Acres.	Bushels.	Per acre.
Fall wheat.....	685,692	14,333,548	20.9	811,185	24,737,011	30.5
Spring wheat.....	118,607	2,169,425	18.3	162,142	3,439,949	21.2
Barley.....	579,473	18,096,754	31.2	552,318	19,893,129	36
Oats.....	2,776,883	103,564,322	37.3	2,871,755	120,217,952	41.9
Rye.....	138,913	2,315,532	16.7	173,736	3,210,512	18.5
Buckwheat.....	177,227	4,251,421	24	193,497	4,278,366	22.1
Peas.....	177,856	2,609,585	14.7	126,943	2,043,049	16.1
Beans.....	51,149	835,895	16.3	62,863	882,819	14
Corn, husking.....	290,817	23,232,360	80	309,773	21,760,496	70.2
Corn, silo..... tons.....	418,165	4,751,223	11.36	443,735	4,874,377	10.96
Potatoes.....	167,591	26,717,587	159	173,934	13,267,023	76
Carrots.....	2,449	767,070	313	2,439	686,232	281
Mangel-wurzels.....	50,663	25,439,520	502	50,799	25,302,323	498
Turnips.....	95,371	46,336,708	496	97,451	46,598,851	478
Mixed grains.....	456,631	16,854,550	36.9	475,739	19,461,609	40.9
Hay, clover, and alfalfa..... tons.....	3,415,484	3,842,654	1.13	3,231,752	4,253,703	1.33
Sugar beets.....	18,534	7,466,819	403	22,890	8,644,281	378

TRAFFIC INCREASING AT GATEWAY TO MEXICO.

[Vice Consul William P. Blocker, Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Dec. 16.]

The Piedras Negras district now has trains operating to and from southern points with much greater regularity than heretofore. Notwithstanding the lack of equipment, there is a continual stream of passengers going south each day, anxious to get to the interior to resume work or investigate conditions.

There has been a large increase in the customhouse receipts in the past few weeks, both export and import. Cars are passing freely across the international bridge, loaded with American products. Three trains of freight, consisting of 69 cars, passed over the boundary line to Mexico Tuesday from Eagle Pass, and were delivered to the Mexican International Railway at Piedras Negras.

In addition to the freight going into Mexico, the first 24 carloads coming out, consigned to points in the East, arrived in Piedras Negras the morning of December 13 from interior points, and were transferred to Eagle Pass the same afternoon. This consignment consisted of ixtle, for mills in Ohio. It is reported that there are also some 1,000 cars of zinc ore awaiting shipment from the mines near Muzquiz and Cuatro Ciénegas to smelters in Oklahoma and other points in the United States, but owing to a shortage of equipment the movement is delayed. It is expected that plenty of cars will be on hand by the latter part of December, and the ore will then begin to move through this place.

Daily Additions Made to Shop Forces in Piedras Negras.

In addition to the resumption of traffic at this gateway to Mexican points, the shop forces are being increased daily at Piedras Negras. There are now about 600 men at work, with a slight increase weekly. The master mechanic of the shops advises the American consulate that eight locomotives, now in the back shops of the Mexican International Railroad in this city, are undergoing a general overhauling, and will be turned out by January 1 and placed in commission. When the engines entered the shops many parts were missing, but these have been supplied.

There is much speculation as to whether large shipments such as have been passing through here the past week will last. It is reported that there are large quantities ready for export in the interior, but the owners are meeting with considerable difficulty in getting permission from the authorities to bring out the goods.

[From American Consulate, Aguascalientes, Mexico, Dec. 16.]

Foodstuffs More Plentiful but Still High Priced in Aguascalientes.

Foodstuffs (corn and beans) are still being brought in from the States of Guanajuato and Jalisco, and although still sold at high prices (beans at 50 pesos per hectoliter—\$8.76 per bushel—and corn at 40 pesos—\$7 per bushel) they are not so scarce as in August and September.

The financial conditions have not improved. The value of the peso increased to about 9 cents, United States currency, but it has since dropped to about 6½ cents, and great difficulty and annoyance attend transactions involving the payment or receiving of Mexican cur-

rency. Some money is declared false, but there is no way to distinguish it from that which is said to be valid.

A decided improvement is observed in railroad traffic. A trip to the States which, 60 days ago, had to be made in box cars, can now be made in Pullman cars. Between San Luis Potosí and Aguascalientes, however, the service has shown no improvement, and travelers have had to make the trip in a box car. Direct railroad communication between Aguascalientes and Mexico City, by way of the central road, and from Aguascalientes to Torreón, is irregular and there is insufficient equipment. The almost total lack of rolling stock in the Republic prevents the resumption of industries and trade in the interior of Mexico.

ACCORIONS POPULAR IN MADAGASCAR.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave.]

The natives of Madagascar are great lovers of music, and, in addition to their own primitive instruments, the accordion is very popular. Within the last few years, the importation of these instruments has shown a steady increase, about 20,000 being imported annually, to the value of about 150,000 francs (\$28,950). These goods have practically all been imported from Germany. In France it has not been possible to produce and place on the local market similar accordions in competition with the German article, which pays a duty of 1 franc (\$0.193) per instrument.

At Tamatave accordions are sold to the trade at 90 francs (\$17.18) per dozen. These instruments weigh about $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and are 11 inches high, 10 inches long, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The wooden tops and bottoms are apparently of light pine, varnished, and the bellows of very cheap leather or imitation leather, while the corners of the instrument are bound with cheap and very thin nickeled tin. They have folded around them a thin brown paper, and are packed in a cardboard box 11 by $11\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Four dozen instruments are packed in a heavy wooden case.

Accordions from all countries other than France pay a special single customs tariff of 1 franc per instrument.

[Lists of importers of general merchandise throughout Madagascar may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices; refer to file 48762.]

ARGENTINE SERVICE "FROM FARM TO KITCHEN."

[Translation from La Prensa, forwarded by Commercial Attaché Albert Hale, Buenos Aires, Nov. 26.]

The Argentine postal authorities have begun a house-to-house distribution, "from farm to kitchen," which promises to give excellent results and to help to lower the cost of living, noticeably quite as high in South America as in other parts of the world. Post offices in the interior of the country are now equipped so that they can accept produce, and in fact all articles wanted for home consumption, and deliver these packages direct to the consumer in the shortest time possible. Distribution will be made as in the case of ordinary mail matter, and at only a slightly additional cost.

[A new parcel-delivery system in Argentina, introduced by the Central Cordoba Railway, was described in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 20, 1915.]

ANNUAL REPORT OF STEAMBOAT-INSPECTION SERVICE

In the annual report of the Supervising Inspector General of the Steamboat-Inspection Service to the Secretary of Commerce for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, the statistical record of work shows certificates of inspection issued to 7,232 steam, sail, and motor vessels and barges aggregating 5,612,031 gross tons; 321 foreign passenger steam vessels aggregating 2,111,008 gross tons were inspected; 18,412 officers of all grades were licensed; 62 steam vessels were granted letters of approval of designs of boilers, engines, and other operating machinery; 91 Government vessels were inspected; and 1,681 boilers in or for United States Government steamers and buildings were inspected. Reinspections of passenger and ferry steamers made by boards of local inspectors numbered 8,120. Assistant inspectors tested 2,962 marine boiler plates at the mills, and also inspected there a large number of steel bars for braces and stay bolts in marine boilers and several hundred plates for stock and repairs. Many requests from other branches and departments of the Government for tests of material at the mills were complied with, and reports rendered to the proper officials. New life preservers inspected numbered 161,335, of which 217 were rejected. During the year 5,022 applicants for original and renewal of licenses were examined for visual defects, 4,962 of whom were passed.

Reports covering casualties and violations of law by vessels subject to inspection numbered 1,669. Accidents resulting in loss of life totaled 190, which was 42 less than in the preceding year. During the year 307,348,008 passengers were carried on steam vessels required by law to report the number of passengers carried. Dividing this number by 107, the total number of passengers lost, shows 2,872,411 passengers carried for each passenger lost. The total number of lives lost from all causes, passengers and crew, was 368.

The administrative methods of the bureau are carefully described. By law the local inspectors are required, once a year at least, to carefully inspect the hull of each steam vessel within their respective districts, and to satisfy themselves that every such vessel is of a structure suitable for the service in which she is to be employed, has suitable accommodations for passengers and crew, is in a condition to warrant the belief that she may be navigated with safety to life, and that all the requirements of law in regard to equipment are faithfully complied with. They are required also to inspect the boilers and their appurtenances in all steam vessels before use, and at least once a year thereafter. There are now required (since 1908) at least three reinspections of all excursion and ferry steamers during the season of navigation, or the year for which certificated. These reinspections are hardly less important than the annual inspections required by law. In the annual inspection application is made to the inspectors to have this work done, but when a reinspection is made the inspectors visit the vessel without prior notice, and judging from reports received, it would appear that many vessels would not keep in good condition were it not for the repeated reinspections.

Great Care Exercised in Licensing of Officers.

Another principal duty of local inspectors is the licensing of officers, and great care is exercised that the person who obtains the license shall be competent to hold it. Licenses, with the single ex-

ception of license as operator of motor vessels, are issued only after the applicant has passed the necessary examination, and therefore no little responsibility for the safe navigation of vessels rests upon the licensed officers.

Supervising inspectors are required to see that the boards of local inspectors execute their duties faithfully, promptly, and as uniformly as possible. They are also required, as far as practicable, to harmonize differences of opinion existing in different local boards. However, with the limited appropriation heretofore given, it is not possible to obtain the highest efficiency or activity from the supervising inspectors. A sufficiently large appropriation would make it possible to have them make actual reinspections of vessels and follow up the work of the local inspectors to a greater extent. A most important means of obtaining uniform administration and improving the work of the service has been through the efforts of the traveling inspector. His chief duty is to ascertain whether the local inspectors have been correctly inspecting vessels; and that his appointment is justified is proven by his reports, for numerous instances of defective and imperfect inspection have been discovered.

The force of inspectors employed in this service is entirely too small. For several years the Bureau has in its estimates pointed out the necessity of additional inspectors. There are instances where inspectors work from 5 a. m. to 10 p. m., and there have been instances where dry-dock examinations have not been made because there was not a sufficient force of inspectors to make them. More clerks also are needed. With one more clerk in the office of the supervising inspector general more efficient inspection could be obtained, because there could be a more careful review of the inspection cards. At present the press of work is sometimes so great that most important work has to be slighted. Also the salaries of inspectors and clerks have not kept pace with the money paid for similar service outside of the Government. As men become trained they promptly leave and, under the circumstances, they can not be condemned for so doing.

These conditions, unfortunate as they are, do not compare with that confronting this service in June, 1915, for it was necessary, on June 10, to order that all reinspections cease. This was because the appropriation for "contingent expenses" was not large enough. Here is presented the spectacle of a great service, responsible for life and property on vessels subject to inspection, being required in one of the heaviest months of navigation to cease all reinspections.

Hull Inspection Receives Serious Attention of Bureau.

Hull inspection has received the serious attention of the Bureau, the subject being considered and recommendations made in the annual reports for the past several years. The local inspectors are required by law once a year at least, to carefully inspect the hull of each steam vessel within their respective districts, and they have the right to refuse to certificate a vessel they do not believe is of suitable structure. Nevertheless it has never been held that the Board of Supervising Inspectors has authority to lay down in detail structural tests in the same manner as has been done in the case of boiler construction, express authority in the case of boilers having been conferred by law.

The Bureau's plan has been to create in the office of the supervising inspector general a corps of experts, whose business it would be to approve proposed hull construction. In order to do this, legislation

is necessary. If the construction of a vessel could be so approved, there would result not only safe conditions with reference to construction, but also more uniformity in the matter of correct inspection and construction. Unfortunate as was the disaster to the steamer *Eastland*, the matter of hull inspection and construction is one that has not been neglected, and as a result of that terrible disaster it may be possible to obtain the larger appropriation necessary for a larger and more effective service.

Closely connected with the proposition of hull construction is that of the overloading of passenger steamers, a question also considered at length in previous annual reports. It is believed that violations of law by steamers in carrying more passengers than allowed by their certificates of inspection are comparatively few. The important question is: Have the local inspectors permitted a steamer to carry a larger number of passengers than she should be permitted to carry? In this connection not only must the stability of the vessel be considered, but also the possibility of panic and the handling of the life-saving apparatus in such event. The conclusion is that the original responsibility rests upon the local inspectors in the matter of passenger allowance. The Bureau has endeavored to impress upon them the seriousness of this responsibility and condemns in unqualified language any exercise of the great authority without full appreciation of its seriousness.

While all eyes are turned toward stability tests for vessels, other perils as terrible should not be forgotten. The possibility of fires on excursion steamers always exists, and though there may be any number of regulations in regard to fire-fighting equipment, the best way is to remove the cause and require absolute fireproof construction of excursion steamers. This can not be done until Congress acts, and the Bureau most earnestly invites attention to the necessity for legislation in this respect. In connection with fires, is to be considered the transportation of dangerous articles. The office of the Supervising Inspector General should be given authority to regulate this very dangerous practice.

IMPORTANT INCREASES IN CANADA'S TRADE.

[Ottawa dispatch in Windsor (Ontario) Record.]

Buoyant prosperity despite the war-time tendency to depression is reflected in the November statement of Canadian trade. It reached a total of \$154,000,000, as against \$126,000,000 in the corresponding month of last year. Domestic exports aggregated \$92,000,000 and imports \$45,000,000. The balance of the total was the trade in coin and bullion.

For the eight months of the fiscal year trade totaled \$863,000,000, as against \$766,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1914. Imports amounted to \$298,000,000, a decrease of \$20,000,000, while the domestic exports were \$419,000,000, as against \$269,000,000.

Exports during the month were made up principally of agricultural products, \$54,000,000; manufactures, \$13,000,000; animals and meats, \$12,000,000; minerals, \$6,500,000; lumber, \$4,500,000; and fisheries, \$2,000,000. These figures indicate an increase of \$34,000,000 in agricultural exports, \$7,000,000 in manufactured goods, and \$4,000,000 in animal products.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.....	Do.
Peck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Com- merce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argen- tina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Summons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(*)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washing- ton, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.
Bonney, Wilbert L.....	San Luis Potosi, Mexico.....	Feb. 13	1905 North Bush Street, Santa Ana, Cal.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

† Consul Wilbert L. Bonney shall visit San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, Cal., and San Antonio, Tex., and will advise the Chamber of Commerce in each of these cities of his arrival and address.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY OF GERMAN INDUSTRIES.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Dec. 4.]

Government monopoly of German industries seems to be the tendency for the future. Potash mines and coal mines for many years have been in some degree under Government control and ownership. The consolidation and ownership of all concerns engaged in generating and distributing electric power is now under consideration. This is considered a logical corollary to the ownership of coal mines, in that the electric-generating stations may be most economically operated at and in connection with the mines.

It is not yet decided whether the ownership will be by the separate German States or by the Imperial Government.

[A report that the city of Berlin had undertaken the purchase of electric lighting and power plants was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 8, 1915.]

EFFORTS TO REDUCE PLASTER OF PARIS MOLD LOSSES.

A representative of a pottery company recently requested the cooperation of the United States Bureau of Standards in a study of plaster of Paris mold losses. This is a matter of vital importance to all potteries, since the amount of capital invested in plaster molds is very large, and a reduction of this loss to even a slight extent will mean considerable profit to any pottery. It was possible in this case for the bureau to furnish the company with information which was of considerable practical value.

ANNUAL REPORT OF COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

The annual report of the superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey to the Secretary of Commerce discusses the work accomplished during the year, and the conditions and needs of the survey. Reference is made to the inadequacy of the present offices and the need of new buildings, properly designed and equipped. A graphic description of the hydrographic work is given on four maps, whereon the work already completed, the work partly finished, and that remaining to be done, are shown in different colors.

The lack of suitable vessels for the work of the survey is dwelt upon at length. Three of the old vessels have been condemned during the year as no longer safe, on account of age and structural weakness; two others are for the same reasons only fit for service in sheltered waters; only one vessel now in commission is altogether fit for work offshore, and she is in the Philippines. The report urges the building of two additional vessels of suitable size and equipment to take up offshore work in Alaska and elsewhere as required. Much such work is greatly needed off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington.

The wire-drag work has hitherto been carried on at a great expense with chartered launches ill adapted for the purpose. It is hoped to remedy this unsatisfactory condition by providing vessels and launches suitable in type, size, and equipment for the work they are to perform. Two types of vessels are therefore needed; one for offshore work, and another for inshore and inside hydrography, and wire-drag operations. Six new vessels of the smaller type, suitable for wire-drag work and for one-party inshore hydrography are needed on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and six more on the Pacific coast. The building of the two large vessels will permit the Survey to take up the offshore work on the Pacific coast which is greatly needed.

As a result of the increased appropriation last year, it was possible to place four wire-drag parties in the field, instead of two. The results prove the wisdom and necessity of doing this work on a much larger scale. The use of the wire drag has revolutionized hydrographic surveying. It has long been realized that soundings with the leadline, no matter how carefully and closely spaced, were not infallible, and that submerged rocks and ledges were often missed, as has been demonstrated by numerous wrecks, and frequent damage due to striking unknown rocks in surveyed waters; but with the development of the wire-drag hydrography these submerged dangers have been discovered and charted.

The importance of having the geodetic work of the country done by the Government rather than by individual States is dwelt upon at length, with the conclusion that our Government should complete the general program which is being followed by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. This plan is, briefly, that the primary triangulation scheme, and the precise level net should be so extended that there will be no place in the United States 100 miles distant from a primary triangulation station, or a precise level bench mark. Besides this work in the interior of the continent, triangulation is needed in the interior of Alaska, across the Alaska Peninsula, and from the Dixon Entrance to White Pass.

The purchase of Dutch Harbor, Alaska, as a Government supply base in western Alaska is advocated. This would greatly benefit the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Bureau of Lighthouses, and the Coast Guard. Retirement for officers of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, similar to that given to the Coast Guard Service, is recommended.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS IN RUSSIA.

[Board of Trade Journal, London, Nov. 25.]

The Torgovo Promyshlennaya Gazetta (Petrograd) of November 5 reports that a meeting was recently held by the committee that was instructed to investigate the urgent question of the supply of agricultural machinery and implements in Russia during 1916. With this end in view, inquiries were addressed to Russian manufacturers of agricultural implements, and, from the replies recently received from a total of 173 large works, the following table has been compiled showing the quantity of machines and implements that these works hold in stock and the amount that they estimate they can manufacture during 1916:

Articles.	In stock.	Estimated production in 1916.	Articles.	In stock.	Estimated production in 1916.
Plows, various.....	144,757	241,105	Sheaf-binding machines.....	236	2,275
Cultivators, etc.....	9,509	34,897	Thrashing machines, hand and power.....	2,930	12,445
Drill plows.....	5,193	14,375	Gearing (horse) for agricultural machinery.....	1,550	11,000
Scythes.....	1,040,000	1,000,000	Winnowing machines.....	2,208	10,772
Hay mowers.....	891	5,425	Chaff cutters.....	2,668	11,800
Reaping and harvesting machines.....	3,051	45,995			

The figures in the table do not include the stocks held by merchants or lying in provincial district warehouses. According to the figures given, the estimated production next year of agricultural machinery and implements in Russia will amount to 60 per cent of the turnover in a normal year. It is anticipated, however, that the production will be increased before long, as manufacturers hope, by reason of improved conditions, to obtain a larger supply of fuel and raw material.

FAIR-RENTALS BILL IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Australia, Nov. 24.]

The bill for the fixing of rentals for dwelling houses in New South Wales has already passed the Lower House of Parliament, and is now on its third reading in the Upper House. A few modifications of the original bill have been made.

[The bill mentioned was fully described in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 22, 1915. It relates to any dwelling subject to a lease made before or after the time the act goes into effect, for any term not exceeding three years, at a rent not exceeding \$500 a year, and within localities appointed by the governor. It provides for the appointment by the governor of fair-rents courts, to which any lessor or lessee who has paid or tendered all rent due under his lease may apply to have the fair rent of the dwelling leased by him or to him determined. In all cases the rent determined by the courts shall be the rent of the dwelling as from the date of the application. Neither barristers nor solicitors, it is proposed, shall be allowed to appear for any party or upon any application in the courts.]

COMPLETION OF PORT WORKS AT RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

[Vice Consul Robert L. Keiser, São Paulo, Brazil, Sept. 17.]

The completion of the port works of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, marks an important advance in the commerce of the State of Rio Grande do Sul. It has been hampered in its development by the lack of a port of easy access. This is demonstrated by the great volume of importation and exportation of the State through the neighboring foreign ports, a condition which manifestly places the exporters and importers at a disadvantage. To the end of overcoming this situation and placing the commerce of the State on an equal basis of competition with others, the work of destroying the bar and improving the port of Rio Grande was undertaken.

Commanding great resources, and with already well-developed industry, it is impossible to foretell what the opening of the port will mean to this very wide-awake and progressive State.

Schedule of Fees and Charges Arouses Protest.

Early in August, 1915, the formal opening of the port of Rio Grande was announced. At the time of the signing of the contract, in 1906, which authorized the port work and the opening of the harbor, the various imposts and dock dues to be charged were specified. These charges, which would be paid by merchandise and vessels entering or leaving the port, were identical with those in effect at the port of Santos. When, however, in August, the French company that had the contract announced the date of the inauguration of the new port, and the decision that from that date all vessels and merchandise would be subject to the new schedule of fees and charges, irrespective of whether they entered the new port or continued to use the old port, the commercial interests of the city of Rio Grande protested, stating that the port dues, as proposed, were unjust and detrimental to the interests of local commerce.

It was claimed, and demonstrated in particular cases, that the dues as proposed and allowed by the contract of 1906 gave a decided advantage to the two other ports on the Lago dos Patos—Pelotas and Porto Alegre. In some cases it was said to be cheaper to ship merchandise past the city of Rio Grande to Pelotas, and return it from that point to Rio Grande by rail, than to pay the newly imposed dues for discharging across the new port of Rio Grande.

The commercial and industrial interests of the city combined and forwarded to the Federal Government a telegram protesting against the interpretation of that part of the contract which refers to the charges to be made to vessels and merchandise, and through the efforts of these combined interests, the Government postponed the opening of the new port until the matter could be adjusted.

Costly Improvement Under Way for Many Years.

This elaborate and costly improvement had its inception in 1874, when Sir John Hackshaw, in studying the national ports for the Brazilian Government, outlined a plan for improving the harbor of Rio Grande, and destroying the bar which had always obstructed the harbor entrance. The estimated expense was placed at \$11,730,000, and the plan described as one which would probably not prove successful.

In 1883 the Government sent Dr. H. Bicalho to make a further study of the harbor and the bar. His report was followed in 1886 by the decision of the Chamber of Deputies to carry out a project as

outlined by Dr. Bicalho. In 1890 definite steps were taken toward commencing the actual work, the result of a contract with a French company organized for the purpose. The following year the contractors were permitted to withdraw their deposit made as a guaranty of performance of contract, and were paid for the actual work done up to that time.

During 1893 and 1894 the Government itself continued in a small way the work already started. For 10 years after that time, however, nothing was done. An American engineer, Mr. Corthell, in 1904, made a resurvey of the situation which resulted in a new contract between him and the Brazilian Government, on a basis of "no cure, no pay." Mr. Corthell interested French capitalists in the project, and on September 17, 1906, the Federal Government signed the contract under which the work has since been carried on.

The work, as begun in 1909 under the contract, was divided into two distinct divisions, each undertaken by a separate company. One was the construction of the breakwaters and the improvement of the channel; the other the construction of a new port for the city of Rio Grande, to be situated 1 mile from the former port. The initial work on the breakwaters consisted of the construction of 90 miles of railways for the bringing of rock from the quarries, situated 50 miles from the bar. Approximately \$4,000,000 has been spent by the company for railroad construction.

Large Investments in the Various Enterprises.

The investment in the various enterprises connected with the construction of the port and the opening of the bar is represented by \$31,000,000. This amount is divided between various companies and contracts, although the Brazil Railway Co. holds 98 per cent of the combined stock.

There is due to the *Compagnie Française du Port de Rio Grande do Sul* at the present time \$2,948,000 from the Federal Government, representing the first payment on the part of the Government to the French company for having maintained a permanent depth of 19½ feet over the bar. This is the first amount which the company will receive from any source toward paying for the tremendous capital invested.

[This report from the vice consul at Sao Paulo is accompanied by six exhibits, which are: No. 1, blue print showing location of port and its general construction; No. 2, blue print of port works, channel, and breakwater, showing part of railroad construction; No. 3, copy of telegram of protest against port charges sent to Federal Government; No. 4, copy of tariff for new port, published by French company; Nos. 5 and 6, regulations of port covering vessels using the port and the internal government, respectively. These may be inspected on application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 69758. A more detailed review of the history of this great project has also been received by the Bureau and may be inspected by referring to the same file number. A previous account of the work at Rio Grande do Sul was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 13, 1915.]

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the **Bureau** or its **district offices**.]

- Binder twine*, No. 19672.—A company in Canada, giving bank references, desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers or exporters of binder twine for the purpose of supplying the prairie trade. It is stated that the company can handle several million pounds annually, if suitable connections can be made.
- Machinery*, No. 19673.—An American consular officer in England reports that a manufacturer's agent has received inquiries for names of manufacturers of machinery for the textile industry.
- Potatoes, fresh fruits, etc.*, No. 19674.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district desires to communicate with exporters of potatoes, fresh fruits, canned and dried fruits, etc. References are given.
- Typewriters and office supplies*, No. 19675.—A report from an American consular officer states that a man in Canada desires to correspond with manufacturers of typewriters and office supplies, with a view to acting as sales agent in Canada.
- Sea moss*, No. 19676.—A letter to the Bureau from a firm in the Netherlands states that it has large quantities of sea moss for sale.
- Portland cement*, No. 19677.—A representative of a company of capitalists in the West Indies informs an American consular officer that he desires to correspond with manufacturers of Portland cement. He states that the company will use large quantities. Correspondence may be in English.
- Dry goods, foodstuffs, etc.*, No. 19678.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that a representative of a large importing firm expects to visit the United States in the near future for the purpose of securing an agency from American manufacturers of dry goods, foodstuffs, hardware, etc.
- Incandescent mantles*, No. 19679.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a company in the Far East stating that it desires names and addresses of manufacturers of incandescent mantles for use in petroleum lamps of high pressure, and soft silk mantles.
- Aluminum eyelets and fasteners*, No. 19680.—A firm in Spain informs an American consular officer that one of its representatives is in the United States for the purpose of buying aluminum eyelets and fasteners for tents. A sample of the eyelet and fastener may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 70264.)
- Well-drilling machinery*, No. 19681.—A report from an American consular officer in the West Indies states that there is a possible market in his district for the sale of well-drilling machinery. Correspondence may be in English.
- Meadow seeds, crude medicinal herbs*, No. 19682.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that special attention is given to the cultivation of meadow seeds and crude herbs, with a view to exporting same.
- Confectionery*, No. 19683.—A retail dealer in homemade candies has requested an American consular officer to supply quotations on sugar and chocolate suitable for making homemade varieties of confections. Agents for the sale of the confections are wanted.
- Soap, underwear, safety pins, etc.*, No. 19684.—A commercial agent of the bureau reports that a representative of a firm in the Netherlands expects to arrive in this country in the near future for the purpose of purchasing soap, underwear, safety pins, wooden pipes, clocks, rubber goods, etc. All goods will be purchased for cash.
- General representation*, No. 19685.—A report from a consular officer in Argentina states that a business man in his district contemplates making a visit to the United States for the purpose of obtaining an agency for exporters interested in extending their trade in Argentina.
- Caustic soda and cotton-seed oil*, No. 19686.—The bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commercial agent stating that a representative of a firm in the Netherlands desires to purchase, for cash, caustic soda and cottonseed oil.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 305 Washington, D. C., Thursday, December 30 1915

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FRENCH EMBARGO ON BUTTER.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Dec. 28.]

An order of December 27 prohibits the exportation of butter to allied countries and to the United States.

BELGIAN COAL IN SWEDEN.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Nov. 30.]

Owing to the embargo placed on British coal and the great difficulty Sweden is experiencing in getting coal, it is of interest to note that a cargo of coal will shortly be received in this country from Belgium, which indicates that the coal mines in that country have been in operation.

AN AMERICAN CARGO LOST AT SEA.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Nov. 24.]

The steamship *Indian Monarch*, bound from New York to New Zealand ports with 4,458 tons of merchandise for this Dominion, was abandoned at sea about November 17 while on fire and is a total loss. This will be materially felt here, for most of the cargo was for immediate delivery, and this means a delay of two to three months. The vessel was on its way out via Cape of Good Hope.

The closing of the Panama Canal is materially felt here, for large shipments of merchandise were about ready to be forwarded when the slide occurred, which meant a delay of 30 to 40 days, and this means much, for stocks are exceedingly low and the trade was depending on American supplies.

An engineering firm at Hamilton, Bermuda, has been asked to submit plans for a model dairy to be installed in Bermuda. Consul Carl R. Loop at Hamilton calls attention to the possibility that orders for dairy machinery and supplies may be placed in the United States.

WOOL SALES IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 29.]

The fourth wool sale for this season in New Zealand came off in Auckland November 25, at which 9,318 bales were offered against 12,290 bales for the 1914 sale. The prices paid were greatly in advance of those ruling at the 1914 sale, as shown by the following table:

Grades.	Nov., 1914	Nov., 1915	Grades.	Nov., 1914	Nov., 1915
	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>		<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Fine half-bred merino.....	22-25	34-40½	Inferior log stained and cotted.	16-17½	24-28
Fine crossbred.....	20-22	34-42	First pieces.....	15-18	20-25
Shropshire and Romney.....	22-25	30-37	Second pieces and bellies....	11-13	15-19
Medium crossbred.....	19-21	28-34	Crutchings.....	14-16½	18-23
Coarse crossbred and Lincoln.	17½-20½	26-30	Locks.....	8-10	12-15

The bidding was spirited and led by American buyers, who took most of the better grades.

Prices at Other Sales—American Buyers.

The following table shows the comparative prices prevailing at the four wool sales that have taken place in New Zealand this season:

	Christ-church.	Wellington.	Napier.	Auckland.		Christ-church.	Wellington.	Napier.	Auckland.
	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>		<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Halfbred:					Crossbred:				
Super.....	40½	37	39½	40½	Super.....	33½	38½	30	.....
Medium.....	29½	33½	37	42	Medium.....	27½	33	37	34
Pieces.....	29	22	30	19	Coarse.....	.....	30	31	30
Shropshire and					Inferior.....	21½	25	27	28
Romney.....				37	Pieces.....	27½	27	27½	25
					Locks.....	17½	15½	15½	15

It is estimated that American buyers secured about 30,000 bales to date and are eagerly collecting all they can locate, and some of this will be going forward soon, but there is a marked shortage of shipping space and it may be some time before there will be space to meet demands unless American shipping interests relieve the situation. In addition to wool comes sheepskins, hides, etc., which will call for much more space.

THE TUNISIAN CROPS.

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, France, Dec. 6.]

While the Tunisian grain crop was a large one, the results were somewhat unsatisfactory, owing to the abnormal proportion of straw and the comparatively small yield of grain. The September and October rains have made it possible to begin the first sowing.

The vineyards suffered from mildew and from an invasion of locusts. As a consequence, the crop was on the whole much below the average. The outlook for the coming year is unpromising, as the vines in their present state need careful treatment, and competent labor is scarce.

The autumn rains benefited the olive trees, but the crop will not be more than average size, except in the districts of Tunis and Bizerta, which report an abundant yield.

The date crop is officially reported to be of small size, but on the whole of good quality.

NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., announces that he has received in stock during the week ended December 25 the following new United States Government publications, which he will sell at the nominal prices affixed:

The Condensation of Gasoline from Natural Gas, Mines Bureau Bulletin 88.—Report of investigations intended to minimize losses that occur in the mining and treatment of mineral substances, in this particular instance covering natural gas. Price, paper, 15 cents.

Extraction and Recovery of Radium, Uranium, and Vanadium from Carnotite, Mines Bureau Bulletin 104.—Covers formation of National Radium Institute, different methods of treating radium ores, Bureau of Mines method for treating carnotite, general descriptions of operations, nitric acid, radium refining, measurements, recoveries, losses, etc. Price, paper, 25 cents.

Protection of Life and Property against Lightning, Standards Technologic Paper 56.—Covers early history of lightning rod, desirability of protection against lightning, efficiency of lightning rods, characteristics of lightning flashes, costs, safeguarding of human life, etc. Price, paper, 35 cents.

Chemical Composition of American Food Materials, Experiment Stations Bulletin 28, revised edition.—Gives brief history of food analysis, with explanation of terms used, and tables showing maximum, minimum, and average composition of staple American food materials. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Infantry Drill Regulations of the United States Army, 1911, with corrections to August 23, 1915, latest edition.—Infantry Drill Regulations now in use, covering drill, combat, marches, camps, ceremonies, and inspections manuals, school of the soldier, school of the squad, school of the company, battalion, regiment, and brigade. Price, fabrikoid, 35 cents.

One Thousand Good Books for Children, Home Education Circular No. 1, issued by the United States Bureau of Education.—A classified and graded list of books prepared by National Congress of Mothers literature committee. Covers picture books for younger readers, education and life, natural history, science, and animal stories, stories of foreign lands, our own country, history, myths and legends, biography, poetry, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Special Features in City School Systems, Education Bulletin 31, 1913.—Covers cooperative industrial courses, home study, honor leagues, teachers' improvement, etc., in various cities of the United States. Price, paper, 10 cents.

House Ants, Entomology Circular 34.—Gives description, habits, and life history of various species of ants infesting houses, with means of eradication. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Pineapple-canning Industry of the World, Special Agents Series 91, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—Gives practical information relative to pineapple industry in Hawaii, Philippine Islands, and other producing points, covering cultivation, shipment, and marketing of the pineapple. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Peanut Butter, Plant Industry Circular 98.—Covers manufacture of peanut butter, including factory equipment, roasting, blanching, blending, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Some Economic Aspects of War, by Henry C. Emery. Lecture delivered before the Army War College, April 11, 1913.—Discussion by Henry C. Emery, professor of economics at Yale University, on war from standpoint of the political economist, and constitutes a general argument in favor of preparedness. Price, paper, 5 cents.

Wood Turpentine, Its Production, Refining, Properties, and Uses, Chemistry Bulletin 144.—Practical work covering methods of production, equipment for manufacture, cost of producing, etc., with a tabulation of results. Price, paper, 10 cents.

Primer of Forestry, Part 2, Practical Forestry, Farmers' Bulletin 358.—Covers forest management, work in the woods, the weather and the streams, forestry abroad and at home, etc. Price, paper, 5 cents.

The American commercial attaché at The Hague, Erwin W. Thompson, reports that the Royal Fertilizer Commission of the Netherlands has fixed the wholesale price, ex ship, of the first cargo of Chile saltpeter at 17.80 florins per 100 kilos, gross for net. At the normal equivalent of 40.2 cents per florin this is \$64.90 per short ton.

MINING IN SPANISH PROVINCES.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Oct. 30.]

In response to a request from persons in the United States interested in the Spanish mining industry, the writer prepared, from data in this office and from the annual directory of Spain, a list of the mining properties there, which was transmitted to the inquirer. Further inquiries have made it clear that this list was not accurate, as many of the mines mentioned therein are either merely projected or abandoned. A careful investigation has therefore been made, and a list prepared from returns supplied by the respective chiefs of the mining bureaus of the Provinces of Badajoz, Caceres, Cadiz, Cordoba, Huelva, and Seville, the six Provinces comprising the consular district of Seville.

[The revised list may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 69839.]

In many cases the word "parada," which means "stopped working," has been inserted after the name of the mine and address of the owners, but the mine in question is not abandoned. It is a custom in Spain with small proprietors to do a certain amount of work of an investigative nature so as to be able to show the mine to good advantage, and then suspend work pending the discovery of a company prepared to purchase.

The list shows that there is a considerable amount of mining in the Seville district, the mines producing antimony, argentiferous lead, copper and iron pyrites, coal, iron, iron pyrites, lead, manganese, phosphate, quicksilver, silver, salt, tin, wolfram, and zinc.

Distribution of Mines.

The mines located in each Province are as follows:

Antimony—4 at Trujillo, Caceres.

Argentiferous lead—8 at Santa Martam, Badajoz; 1 at La Mata, Caceres; 25 at Anora, Fuenteovejuna, Posadas, Montoro, Alcaracejos, Viso de los Pedroches, Villanueva del Duque, Villaviciosa, and Villanueva de Cordoba, Province of Cordoba; 2 at Galaroza, Province of Huelva; and 8 at Guillena, Cervigueros, Marin, and Guadalcanal, Province of Seville.

Copper and iron pyrites—1 at Feria, Badajoz; 4 at Peraleda de San Roman, Caceres, Alia, Province of Caceres; 3 at Alcaracejos, Pozoblanco, and Cordoba, Province of Cordoba; 47 or more at Calanas, Zalamea la Real, Cala, Valverde del Camino, Almonaster la Real, El Cerro, Cortegana, Puebla de Guzman, Nerva, Alosno, Paimogo, Paradas, and Rio Tinto, Province of Huelva (many of these, numbered as only one mine, are really whole groups of mines under one name); 17 at Aznalcollar, Castillo de las Guardas, Parada, and Constantina, Province of Seville.

Coal—16 at Fuenteovejuna, Pueblo Nueva del Terrible, Belmez, Obejo, Adamuz, Villanueva del Rey, Espiel, Province of Cordoba; 6 at Villanueva del Rio, Cuenca del Guadalquivir, and Cantillana, Province of Seville.

Iron—21 at Fuente del Arco, Granja de Torre Hermosa, Santa Marta, Jerez de los Caballeros, Albuquerque, Bodonal, Monasterio, La Parra, Paradas, Province of Badajoz; 5 at Caceres, Valencia de Alcantara, and Aliseda, Province of Caceres; 4 at Cala, Jabugo, Cumbres, and Santa Olalla, Province of Huelva, 25 at San Nicolas del Puerto, El Pedroso Cazalla de la Sierra, Guadalcanal, Castillo de las Guardas, Moron, Constantina, Province of Seville.

Iron pyrites—4 at Alajar, Zalamea, and Calanas, Province of Huelva, 3 at Constantina and Castillo de las Guardas, Province of Seville.

Lead—62 at Aznaga, Berlanga, Castuera, Capilla, Granja de Torre Hermosa, Garlitos, Valencia las Torres, Villagarcia, and Parada, Province of Badajoz; 4 at Conquista and El Almendro, Province of Huelva.

Manganese—7 at El Cerro, Zalamea la Real, Calanas, Aroche, and Aracena, Province of Huelva; 1 at Castillo de las Guardas, Seville.

Phosphate—8 at Cáceres, Logroño, and Torremocha, Province of Cáceres.

Quicksilver—2 at Usagre and Paradus, Province of Badajoz.

Silver—1 at La Vava, Huelva.

Salt (Maritimas)—3 at Huelva.

Tin—2 at Cáceres, Province of Cáceres.

Wolfram or wolframite—3 at Villa de la Serena, Campanario, and Oliva de Jerez, Province of Badajoz.

Zinc—1 at Llorá, Province of Badajoz; 5 at Berzocana and Plasenzuela, Province of Cáceres.

The list shows that there are over 300 mines in the district, many of great importance. The Rio Tinto mines are said to be the largest copper mines in the world. There should, therefore, be a good opportunity for the introduction of American mining machinery on a larger scale than at present.

It is suggested that, as the address of each mine is given, it might be well for those interested in the exportation of American machinery to communicate directly with the owners in Spanish, sending them copies of such Spanish literature as they may have issued.

BAHIA MARKET FOR BEANS.

[Consul Robert Frazer, jr., Bahia, Brazil, Nov. 17.]

No beans are either imported or exported at this port. The local production is generally equal to the very large demand; when it falls short, the deficiency is supplied from the southern part of the Republic, where the chief centers of production are the States of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Geraes. During the past year, however, it has not been found necessary to augment the local supply.

No statistics of production are kept, though the amount is very large, as beans constitute one of the staple articles of diet throughout this region. Every small farmer grows them, and they are frequently planted on large estates between trees or plants of other crops. The varieties chiefly grown are light coffee colored, known as "mulatinhos," and black, known as "pretos." The present wholesale price is 20 milreis per 80-liter bag, equivalent at present exchange to \$2.11 per bushel.

The nominal duty on beans imported into Brazil is 0.060 milreis per kilo, based on gross weight if packed in bags, or with an allowance of 10 per cent of the weight for tare if packed in barrels or boxes. The actual duty, based on a recent quotation of the milreis at 24 cents, and taking into consideration the 2 per cent surtax and the proportion payable in gold, is in practice considerably increased, equivalent to \$1.12 per 100 pounds.

If offers of American beans are made here, small samples should be sent, prices quoted c. i. f. Bahia (in either dollars or sterling), the metric system of weight or measurement (1 bushel equals 35.24 liters), and the Portuguese language used. If possible, some concession is advised in the matter of terms. Shipping documents might be sent through a bank attached to draft payable 30 days after sight, or payment might be asked upon arrival of goods here, but very likely a demand for cash against documents in New York would not be met.

[A list of the principal importers of foodstuffs here, all of whom enjoy good reputations, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 69765.]

DENTAL SUPPLIES IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

A license was recently granted a British company to manufacture within Brazil, as well as to import and to export, artificial teeth, dental supplies, scientific and surgical instruments, cutlery, photographic supplies, and a long list of other articles.

The fact is interesting because it points to an important development in international trade. Not long ago this consulate had occasion to go over the business situation with the traveling representative of an American manufacturer of collars, shirts, etc., who has a large popular sale in the United States for a certain brand of collars that sell at retail at two for 25 cents. After calculating the duties, customs charges, local merchants' profit, etc., it was found that this article can not be sold here at less than 50 cents United States currency each, thereby making it impossible to urge cheapness as a selling point. Since the cost of producing this article is low, it was suggested that the best solution, in a country like this, which produces excellent native cotton goods, was for the American manufacturer to establish himself here and manufacture locally. An article like a cheap collar of reasonably good quality would meet with immediate popular favor here, as would doubtless many other useful and well-made cheap articles of American manufacture.

It is possible that this line of thought, which seems to have appealed to the British manufacturer of dental goods, might prove useful to American manufacturers of many small articles. To be sure, there is always in Latin America some local tax on production (internal-revenue tax) to be figured upon, but this is almost always far below the figure of the import duties and the landing, clearing, and brokerage charges.

Importations of American and other dental material into Brazil were as follows: From the United States, \$197,737 in 1913 and \$96,727 in 1914; from Great Britain, \$32,281 in 1913 and \$31,358 in 1914; from Germany, \$18,812 in 1913 (no returns for 1914). The total imported from all countries was \$256,561 in 1913 and \$139,830 in 1914.

However, there are a great many American dentists practicing in this country who import a large portion of their supplies by parcel post or registered mails, and such imports are not included in the foregoing figures.

INVESTIGATE METHOD OF FIRING SANITARY PORCELAIN.

In the vicinity of the Pittsburgh laboratory of the United States Bureau of Standards a large tunnel kiln has been erected for firing sanitary porcelain. The fuel used is natural gas, which is unsatisfactory for the method usually employed in firing these kilns. The result has been rather disastrous. A representative of the company called at the bureau for advice, and while some could be given, it is considered desirable that the whole matter of tunnel kilns should be studied in further detail. The bureau recommends that an investigation of this method of firing materials be made, not so much at this particular plant, but at one or two others where facilities would be a little better for this purpose.

IMPORTS OF COTTON YARN AT SWATOW.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Nov. 6.]

The Chinese Maritime Customs returns show the following imports of cotton yarn into Swatow for the years 1908 to 1915 (nine months), inclusive:

Years.	Indian yarn.	Japanese yarn.	Years.	Indian yarn.	Japanese yarn.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1908	8,573	8	1912	9,706	114
1909	9,602	4	1913	10,123	261
1910	8,541	12	1914	8,635	2,330
1911	7,955	6	1915 (9 months)	7,249	971

It will be noticed from these figures that until 1912 Indian yarn dominated the local market. In 1912 Japan contributed 114 tons of yarn; in 1913, 261 tons; and in 1914, 2,330 tons. In 1914 the imports of Indian yarn amounted to 8,635 tons, a figure that showed Japan was cutting heavily into the trade. In 1915, during the first nine months, 7,249 tons of Indian yarn were imported, while only 971 tons of the Japanese variety reached Swatow. Of this 971 tons the greater part was imported during the first quarter of the year, some in the second quarter, and hardly any in the third quarter. As a result, Indian yarn has commenced to swing back into its former predominating position, and Chinese yarn from Shanghai, of which 3 tons were imported in 1913 and 54 tons in 1914, was imported to such an extent in 1915 that the figures for the first nine months reached 282 tons. Of this 282 tons much more than half was imported during the third quarter. Of English yarn, 1 ton was purchased in 1913, 4 tons in 1914, and 4 tons in the first nine months of 1915.

It was impossible to procure a sample of Japanese yarn.

[A sample of Indian yarn, No. 20 Parrot brand, may be seen at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices, which will also supply a list of Swatow firms who are interested in the importation of cotton yarn. Refer to file No. 69978.]

AMERICAN SILKS IN CUBA.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

American women residing in Habana express considerable wonderment that this market is not given more attention by silk makers of the United States. It is asserted that the American silks wear longer and do not "crack" as the French silks do in this climate. Of late some small quantities of American silks have been noticed in the stores, but the prices are about three times those of the European silks. American ribbons are not to be had on the market generally, and they are high priced. In fact, all dry goods are high priced in Cuba, and it appears that unless at least 100 per cent profit can be made on an article the dealer is scarcely interested in carrying it. The American women profess to believe that if a large, first-class American dry goods, millinery, and notion store were opened in Habana, handling goods on a basis of reasonable profit, and managed like a first-class establishment in the United States, it would have an impregnable position and a tremendous trade.

CITRUS-FRUIT PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA.

[From Report of the General Manager of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange.]

During the year ending August 31, 1915, 40,986 cars of oranges and 6,658 cars of lemons were shipped from California. Of these, 24,232 cars of oranges and 5,577 cars of lemons (consisting of 9,648,283 boxes of oranges and 2,241,553 boxes of lemons) were shipped by the Exchange. The returns f. o. b. California will be about \$19,537,850; the market value is approximately \$30,000,000. There has been a gradual increase in the proportion of total shipments handled by the Exchange, the percentage having risen from 47 in 1905 to 62.5 in 1915.

Methods Used in Marketing Crops—Adoption of Standard Grade.

At intervals throughout the year, each association estimates the size of the crop in the orchards of its members. These combined estimates indicate to the railroads, the trade, and the industry what the size of the crop is to be, and furnish a definite basis for the business plans necessary to be made for supplies and for the distribution and sale of the crop. The total average cost of the Exchange is 7.16 cents per box. This service is an evolution of 20 years' experience, and is not only less expensive but is more comprehensive than any other crop-marketing service yet developed.

Unrestricted competition for the early market had resulted in the shipment of green, immature oranges in November and early December. A few carloads of fruit brought high prices, but consumers turned away from these oranges to other fruit more appetizing. After this experience practically all shippers in Tulare County and in the other early districts agreed not to ship oranges that were below the 8 to 1 standard, as promulgated by the Federal Department of Agriculture. No other act in recent years has done more to popularize California oranges. The early fruit shipped from the north was fine in color and good to eat, the trade pushed the sales with confidence, the consumer was pleased with the quality, and a strong demand for Sunkist oranges resulted.

Heavy Increase in Citrus-Fruit Production—Valencia Oranges.

There was an increase of 19.1 per cent over the largest preceding season in the total value of oranges and grapefruit shipped from December to February, inclusive, in 1914-15, from both Florida and California, the average shipments from the two States equaling approximately 275 carloads per day during this period. This increase was in addition to 2,000 carloads from Louisiana and Porto Rico. During the period from December, 1914, to August, 1915, inclusive, California shipments were 36,001 carloads, while Florida marketed 20,705.

Through national advertising the Fruit Growers' Exchange is popularizing the Valencia orange with the American consumer. Few people knew that California produced a summer orange of luscious eating quality. The Valencia is comparatively free from decay, it can be shipped to the mountain or seaside resorts and to the country towns with equal advantage, and yields a splendid financial return.

Opportunities for the Lemon Industry.

The California lemon crop increased 132 per cent over the crop of the preceding year. Different factors control the market for oranges and for lemons; the consumption of the latter depending primarily

on climatic conditions, Americans using them almost exclusively in cold drinks during hot weather. The exchange lemon shippers have organized a company to manufacture by-products from the lower grades of fruit. From \$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000 worth of lemon oil, citrate of lime, and other lemon by-products are imported annually into the United States; these can be manufactured successfully in California from fruit not worth shipping.

There are 20,000 acres of lemons in California four years old and under, which will soon come into bearing and will double the supply of domestic lemons; to consume this increase, and the foreign supply, it will be necessary to increase the lemon consumption of the United States by 75 to 100 per cent in the next few years. New uses of lemons will be suggested to the public, and the consumer will be educated to the advantages of this fruit as a healthful product in a great number of culinary uses, in toilet uses, and in beverages, so that lemons will be used more generally throughout the year.

RAILWAY EARNINGS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne, Australia.]

The following comparative figures, showing the earnings of the railways and tramways for the State of New South Wales, are taken from the Report of the Chief Commissioner for Railways and Tramways for the quarter ended September 30, 1915, compared with the corresponding period in 1914:

Item.	Quarter ended Sept. 30—		Item.	Quarter ended Sept. 30—	
	1914	1915		1914	1915
RAILWAYS.			RAILWAYS—continued.		
Miles open.....	4,010	4,147½	Tonnage of live-stock traffic.....	180,780	198,173
Revenue:			TRAMWAYS.		
Passenger.....	\$3,865,000	\$3,986,800	Miles open.....	215	220
Merchandise.....	\$5,342,000	\$4,976,200	Revenue.....	\$2,337,400	\$2,250,600
Expenditure.....	\$6,920,300	\$6,151,200	Expenditure.....	\$1,983,160	\$1,829,300
Train miles run.....	5,211,511	5,087,302	Train miles run.....	6,842,951	6,546,653
Number of passengers.....	21,726,433	22,514,040	Number of passengers....	70,782,571	68,634,124
Tonnage of goods traffic.....	903,585	763,132			
Tonnage of coal and coke.....	1,880,350	1,823,555			
Tonnage of other minerals.....	215,563	298,142			

The principal decreases and increases in the goods traffic were in the following items: Decreases in tons—general merchandise, 12,575; hay, straw, etc., 18,906; grain, flour, etc., 122,528; coal and coke, 56,795. Increases—wool, 13,556; minerals (other than coal and coke), 82,579; live stock, 17,393.

PROGRESS MADE ON NATIONAL GAS-SAFETY CODE.

The work begun some months ago in connection with a national gas-safety code has made good progress, and the United States Bureau of Standards is now receiving the cooperation of several engineering societies which have appointed representatives for the purpose. This gas-safety code will relate to both the life and fire hazard and hence will cover the ground which, in the case of corresponding work in the electrical field, is covered by two codes—the Underwriters' Fire Code, and the National Electrical Safety Code, which is being prepared by the Bureau.

IMPORTS INTO HANKOW.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China, Nov. 12.]

As shown by the following table giving the amount of the principal imports into Hankow, China, from foreign countries and Chinese ports through the maritime customs, there was a decrease in the amount of a large number of articles imported during the first six months of 1915, compared with the corresponding period in 1914.

It is true that the war has closed certain markets with which products have been exchanged, and it has interrupted the regular channels of trade without materially affecting the wealth of the country—the trade exists awaiting the restoration of normal conditions of former channels or the establishment of new ones. These conditions have not yet returned nor have new connections been extensively introduced.

Principal Imports into Hankow.

The following table shows the quantity of the principal imports into Hankow for the first six months of 1914 and 1915:

Articles.	Jan.- June, 1914.	Jan.- June, 1915.	Articles.	Jan.- June, 1914.	Jan.- June, 1915.
Cotton goods:			Cotton goods—Continued.		
Shirting, gray, plain—			Dyed cottons—Contd.		
American.....pieces..	880	3,070	Lastings, figured,		
English.....do.....	293,095	287,654	pieces.....	13,595	9,863
Japanese.....do.....	8,779	20,480	Reps and ribs, fig-		
Sheetings, gray, plain—			ured.....pieces..	8,359	1,797
American.....pieces..	5,860	9,450	Cambrics, lawns, and		
English.....do.....	18,277	25,290	mualins.....pieces..	18,241	23,976
Japanese.....do.....	5,025	6,540	Turkey-red cambrics,		
Shirtings, white, plain—			pieces.....	17,850	12,286
Dutch.....pieces..	17,518	15,960	Turkey-red shirtings,		
English.....do.....	373,202	316,523	pieces.....	18,986	9,933
Drills—			Cotton flannel, plain,		
American.....do.....	9,480	3,575	dyed, and printed,		
English.....do.....	786	1,460	pieces.....	1,514	2,333
Japanese.....do.....	126,575	68,418	Velvets and velveteens,		
Jeans—			plain.....yards..	201,405	97,559
Dutch.....do.....	2,680	710	Handkerchiefs.....dozens..	44,715	54,470
English.....do.....	62,344	40,799	Towels, honeycomb and		
Japanese.....do.....	3,800	29,000	huckaback.....dozens..	39,568	39,537
T cloth, 32-inch—			Towels, other kinds,		
English.....do.....	36,364	48,667	dozens.....	78,233	62,924
Japanese.....do.....	2,340	3,780	Cotton yarn—		
T cloth, 36-inch, Eng-			English.....tons..	8	3
lish.....pieces..	560	120	Italian.....do.....	419	340
Cambrics, lawns, and			Japanese.....do.....	6,817	8,636
muslins, white.....pieces..	23,463	19,548	do.....do.....	990	1,071
Printed cottons—			Tin plates.....do.....	1,137	1,630
Chintzes, plain cot-			Bags of all kinds.....pieces..	1,069,878	1,971,263
ton prints, and			Caps and hats.....do.....	23,456	15,453
shirtings.....pieces..	60,066	38,392	Cigarettes.....mille..	304,496	221,163
Sateens, reps, etc.,			Coal.....tons.....	53,037	33,618
pieces.....	34,608	9,623	Aniline dyes.....value..	\$205,336	\$5,696
T cloth and Turkey			Indigo dyes.....tons..	1,617	230
rods.....pieces..	790	2,770	Electrical material and		
Dyed cottons—			fit-		
Italians, plain, fast			tings.....value..	\$101,357	\$30,932
black.....pieces..	82,264	66,293	Glass, window.....boxes..	12,799	5,750
Venetians, plain, fast			Lamps and lamp ware.....value..	\$67,890	\$20,285
black.....pieces..	29,422	25,943	Machinery of all kinds.....do.....	\$488,411	\$67,936
Lastings, plain, fast			Matches, wood, Japan, gross.....	763,445	418,050
black.....pieces..	639	1,200	Medicines.....value..	\$180,228	\$38,706
Italians, plain,			Needles.....mille..	372,410	
colored.....pieces..	12,624	15,105	Engine oil.....gallons..	\$5,197	170,637
Venetians, plain,			Kerosene oil.....do.....	8,487,174	10,735,335
colored.....pieces..	5,595	7,749	Sugar, brown, white, refined,		
Lastings, plain,			candy.....tons.....	30,372	26,089
pieces.....	225	340	Timber:		
Italians, figured,			Hard.....cubic feet..	83,541	6,266
pieces.....	18,574	15,889	Soft.....square feet..	8,309,937	678,890
Venetians, figured,			Locomotives and tenders,		
pieces.....	1,560	2,069	value.....	\$196,008	\$6,183
			Railway carriages and		
			wagons.....value..	\$120,917	\$1,186

Cotton Textiles, Needles, Aniline Dyes.

Cotton textiles should be the least affected of any group, because they are absolutely essential to the welfare of the people. Needles, in which Germany and Belgium had almost a monopoly, were imported into the whole of China to the value of \$583,261 in 1913, but none were imported into Hankow during the first half of the current year because the sources of supply had been cut off. The needles in stock have been sold on the local market at a very advanced price. Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 17798, published in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 5, 1915, called attention to this market, but only one reply was received by the inquirer, and this was not responsive. This item is small, but important, and it seems that a single item sold in a country aggregating over \$500,000 during the period of one year would be worth the attention of manufacturers who were interested in the Oriental trade.

The imports of aniline dye decreased in value from \$205,300 to \$5,606 during the periods under comparison, and the market value increased from 35 taels (\$21.26 gold) to 135 taels (\$82.01 gold) per picul (133½ pounds).

Increased Imports of American Glass—Nails, Oils, Etc.

It is evident that American manufacturers of glass have given their attention to the opportunities in the Hankow market for the sale of this article, as there were at least two large arrivals at this port within a week, to be followed by others; and this, no doubt, marks the beginning of an important trade should the American product be delivered in a sound condition and packed in a manner satisfactory to the local trade.

Wire cut nails were imported in increased quantities—from 990 to 1,071 tons; bags of all kinds had a substantial increase of 900,000 pieces and aggregate for the 1915 period 1,971,283 bags. The imports of kerosene oil increased from 8,487,174 to 10,735,335 gallons. Engine oil was imported during the first six months of 1915, amounting to 170,037 gallons, an increase of 106,840 gallons over the corresponding period in 1914. It is not a good indication in the development of the trade of the country to find that machinery of all kinds declined from \$488,411 to \$57,936, and almost equally unfavorable indication is the decrease in the value of electrical material and fittings from \$101,357 to \$30,932.

Opportunity to Extend American Trade.

There is no question but that American manufacturers are beginning to realize the present favorable conditions for the exploitation of this market and have taken some steps to obtain in certain lines their share of the trade, but it is equally certain that the great majority of them have an inadequate idea of the potentialities of the Chinese market and the wonderful opportunities which the world's political conditions have given them to participate in one of the world's greatest markets. Our part in the China trade has been trifling compared to what we should have had and to what we can get with but little exertion and at a small per cent of the introductory expenditure.

TRADE-PROMOTION SUGGESTIONS FROM PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, Oct. 25.]

With a view to obtaining information that would be useful in promoting commercial interchange between the United States and the Republic of Paraguay, I sent out to the principal importing and exporting houses in the Asuncion district circular letters asking what goods they bought from or sold to the United States, whether they desired to enter into direct connections with American firms interested in their lines, what trade difficulties they had encountered, and what suggestions, if any, they could offer looking toward a betterment of existing commercial conditions. Of 29 letters sent, 14 were answered; and, as giving the Paraguayan point of view, two of the replies are quoted.

A general importer of Concepcion, who stated that he bought no merchandise from the United States, thus explained his position:

I am accustomed, as are nearly all importers here, to purchase my goods in Germany, Italy, England, and France, but especially in Germany, on account of the great advantages offered by commercial houses there. For one thing, those exporting houses of Hamburg that do not keep permanent representatives here send travelers with samples of articles specially manufactured for the needs and tastes of this market and patterned after samples taken beforehand by these exporting houses. The German exporting houses accept any order, no matter how small, and send goods direct to Paraguayan ports, thus relieving the dealer of all bother of transshipment in Buenos Aires or Montevideo.

Convenient Payment Arrangements.

Payment for goods ordered from Germany is arranged in an excellent manner for importers here. The exporting houses draw on the Concepcion merchant at 180 days from date, or generally 180 days sight, for the value of goods and freight and other expenses. These notes are discounted by banks here or in Germany. The interest charged by German houses has not been more than 5 per cent per annum since the beginning of the war.

All these facilities are not given to importers here by American exporters, who are accustomed to send illustrated catalogues in English instead of traveling representatives and to demand cash with order before importers have an opportunity to examine the goods. Besides all this, American wares are much dearer than are goods of German manufacture.

It is therefore necessary, if American manufacturers and exporters wish to compete with those of Europe, that they adopt the system used by their competitors and give equal facilities in the matter of credits, shipments, etc. As the quality of the American merchandise is far superior to that of European goods, there is no doubt that if equal facilities as mentioned are given, importers here will buy American goods in preference to those of Europe, even at a higher price.

Several others voiced the same opinion as to the need for meeting terms offered by European competitors.

Credit Information—C. I. F. Prices.

The establishment of an American credit-information bureau and the quotation of c. i. f. prices were suggested by an Asuncion importer of construction material:

To facilitate the commercial interchange between importers here and exporters in the United States it would be well to establish a bureau of credit information, and by furnishing to American inquirers information regarding local houses give responsible Asuncion firms an opportunity to purchase American goods without being obliged to send cash with order.

It would aid commercial interchange if American firms would quote prices c. i. f. Buenos Aires or, better still, c. i. f. Asuncion. The exporters in American ports are in a better position to obtain low ocean freight rates than are the importers in Asuncion, 1,100 miles from an ocean port. This would benefit the purchasers here and give the exporters in the United States a wider margin to compete with European exporters.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do. do.	Do.
Feck, Willys R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 408, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2607 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.
Bonney, Wilbert L. ^b	San Luis Potosi, Mexico.....	Feb. 13	1905 North Bush Street, Santa Ana, Cal.

* The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1918. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

^b Consul Wilbert L. Bonney shall visit San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, Cal., and San Antonio, Tex., and will advise the Chamber of Commerce in each of these cities of his arrival and address.

CONDITION OF THE MATCH INDUSTRY IN SWEDEN.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Nov. 30.]

The match industry in Sweden at present is flourishing more than during any previous time. The output has been greatly increased, and it is estimated that prices have also increased by at least 100 per cent. Before the war prices were quoted c. i. f. all foreign countries, but now the manufacturers demand f. o. b. factory. Owing to the elimination of the match production in Belgium and other countries at war, the Swedish match has practically no competition and the exports to England and France have been doubled. The Swedish mills are working under high pressure and there appears to be, for the present at least, no indication of a rebound in the prices asked and obtained. It is certain that the Swedish match industry will prosper in an increasing degree during the next year.

A SPANISH COMMERCIAL MISSION IN SWEDEN.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Nov. 29.]

A commercial mission from Spain is now in Sweden for the purpose of studying the country industrially and also for the purpose of ordering goods which on account of the war can not be imported into Spain from Germany, England, and France. This commission has already visited some of the largest electrical and gas machinery manufacturing plants and shipbuilding yards in the country, and placed an order amounting to 5,000,000 crowns, or \$1,340,000.

ONTARIO SHOWS LARGE PURCHASING POWER.

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Dec. 9.]

Trade in Ontario is much more encouraging than a year ago. Not only is the public more optimistic, but the buying power appears greater than at any time since the beginning of the war. Particularly is this manifested as the holiday season approaches.

In some lines a shortage is noted on the market. But, of course, the commodities in which a shortage is experienced in Canada are in many instances similarly scarce in the United States. Agriculturally the whole Dominion has, with few exceptions, enjoyed abundance. This, with the prevailing high prices, will make the people good buyers for some time. In Ontario, however, there is a minor shortage in hay, potatoes, and apples. The war situation has affected the drug business more than any other line, but the effects are analogous to those in the United States.

Articles in Which Scarcity Has Been Felt Recently.

The hardware trade thus far has suffered little, except in cutlery and glass, while galvanized iron and sheet metals are becoming scarce. Grocers advise that raisins, currants, peels, grapes, and pickles are becoming scarce, while the dry-goods line reports a rapidly approaching scarcity of linen, woolen dress goods, and linoleum, which have increased to the consumer by 25 to 50 per cent over two years ago. Stationers report a scarcity in indelible pencils and crêpe paper. A shortage is also apparent in china, crockery, toys, dolls, and in some novelties, prices having increased by 25 to 50 per cent. Notwithstanding all expectations to the contrary, men's clothing has, if anything, been cheaper the past year than before the war.

A newspaper man remarked that Americans did not advertise as much in Canada as in former years. He suggested that perhaps the opinion prevailed in the United States that there was no money in Canada on account of the war. He was asked if it were not likely that many American firms experienced such a demand for their goods as to make it unnecessary to advertise to the same extent as in former years. A local firm recently wrote to an American firm with a view to negotiations relative to purchasing certain machinery. The firm replied that it had so many orders on file as to make it impossible to consider new customers for the time being.

DYEWOODS IN HONDURAS.

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, Dec. 20.]

The shortage of dyestuffs in the United States has led to several inquiries as to the possibility of securing logwood in this district.

Although logwood can not be found here in commercial quantities, there is a considerable supply of fustic, and the consulate is in a position to place those who may desire this dyewood in touch with shippers of the same.

[A report on the effect of the embargo on logwood from Jamaica and British Honduras was published in *COMMERCIAL REPORTS* for Dec. 29; also a report on the logwood supplies in Central America.]

AMERICAN MOTOR CARS IN INDIA.

[Consul James Oliver Laing, Karachi, Nov. 10.]

The Department of Statistics for India has just published figures covering the importation of motor cars into India. It is stated that 620 cars from the United States were imported in the six months from April to September, 1915, while 407 came from the United Kingdom. The figures for the last four months are:

Months.	From United Kingdom.		From United States.		Total from all countries.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
June	65	\$93, 112	155	\$105, 116	241	\$225, 157
July	85	87, 597	44	35, 363	134	133, 342
August	32	36, 012	85	66, 184	140	138, 533
September	29	42, 176	157	142, 426	196	198, 229

Of the imports of tires and tubes in these months, 34 per cent came from Italy, 21 per cent from Japan, and 20 per cent from France. The imports from the United Kingdom were 21 per cent and from the United States about 3 per cent.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT EXPERIENCES TRADE BOOM.

[Consul Ross E. Holaday, Manchester, England, Dec. 7.]

The Manchester district is experiencing a trade boom which a local newspaper states is almost unprecedented. Since the earlier part of the war there has been a noticeable and steady revival, and at the present time the general trade situation is considered to have upset the calculations even of the leading commercial authorities in Lancashire. In nearly every branch of trade there has been a marked improvement. The returns of the Manchester Bankers' Clearing House provide a reliable guide to the business position and tend to show the extent of the present economic prosperity. The statistics for the week ended December 4, 1915, show that the total amount which passed through the Manchester Bankers' Clearing House was \$39,987,884, or nearly as high as the amount in 1913, which was a record year. Then the total amount reached \$40,362,721, or \$374,837 more than the week ended December 4, 1915, and nearly \$9,733,000 more than in the corresponding week a year ago.

CUBAN MARKET SHORT OF THREAD.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

There is a shortage of cotton thread for sewing purposes in the Cuban market at present, in numbers 60, 70, 80, and 90. The supply of thread comes mainly from England, and a spool of thread of the established brand, which is called "Cardena," retails for 10 cents gold. Efforts have been made in the past to get American thread on the market, but these were met with considerable competition and price cutting on the part of the British spinners; and thread has been known to sell as low as 2 cents per spool. These methods have apparently caused American manufacturers to leave the market in possession of the British manufacturers. It may be that at this time a further advance can be made by American exporters, and such a strong position obtained that it can be retained. Many other varieties and yarns come from England almost entirely, and it would seem to be a good field for the American manufacturer to cultivate.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its branch offices.]

Advertising novelties, buttons, musical instruments, etc., No. 19687.—A letter to the bureau states that a firm in India desires samples and quotations on advertising novelties, buttons, musical instruments, cement, clocks, glassware, paper and paper goods, toys, and soap and perfumery. References are given.

General representation, No. 19688.—The Bureau is informed that a man who has been engaged in the import and export business for a number of years, with offices in New York and Paris, intends to locate in Paris permanently and would like to represent several American manufacturers of noncompeting lines. He desires to pool expenses, such as office rental, advertising charges, etc.

Shoe laces, No. 19689.—An American consular officer in Ireland reports that there is a demand in his district for shoe laces. It is suggested that manufacturers of such articles send quotations and full information as soon as possible.

Drainage and irrigation machinery, No. 19690.—A report from an American consular officer in South America states that a representative of several private interests is in the United States with the object of purchasing drainage and irrigation machinery for large and small canal dredging, machinery for the transportation of earth, bridge connections, etc. The representative also desires to meet electrical construction engineers and manufacturers of water-power electric machinery. Quotations on water-power and electric-transmission equipment, as well as offers for the construction of a large capacity water-power electric plant are requested. Bank references are given.

Filtering plant, No. 19691.—The Dunedin City Council has called for tenders for the supply and erection, in full working order, of a mechanical filtering and aerating plant for the public baths (contract No. 376). Copies of specifications and conditions with form of tender, together with drawings, may be obtained from the City Engineer, Town Hall, Dunedin, New Zealand, on payment of \$9.73, which amount will be refunded upon the return of the documents in good condition by February 28. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received at the office of the Town Clerk, Dunedin, until February 9, 1916. Tenders must be accompanied by a marked check or cash to the amount of 10 per cent of the value of the tender. The bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

Sheet and plate glass, No. 19692.—An American consular officer in Wales reports that a firm of wholesale glass merchants desires to receive c. i. f. quotations on sheet glass in lots of 400 to 800 cases, 300 square feet in each case, the size of the sheets being 56 by 40 inches. Quotations are also desired on plate glass of different sizes, with plain and beveled edges, prices expressed by the square foot. It is stated that the plate glass which is in demand is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick and is 150 by 80 or 90 inches. Bank references are given.

Glucose and corn starch, No. 19693.—A commercial agent of the bureau reports that a firm is interested in making business connections with exporters for the sale of corn starch and glucose in Mediterranean countries.

Railway supplies, No. 19694.—A report from an American consular officer in Denmark states that tenders have been invited for 135,000 fishplate bolts, 10,000 joint-sleeper bolts, 550,000 nut locks for fishplate bolts, 800,000 spikes, and 1,190,000 wood screws. Specifications, general conditions, together with drawings may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 70274.)

Railway, No. 19695.—An American consular officer in England reports that quotations will be received at the "Direccion-General de Obras Publicas, Ministerio de Fomento," Madrid, Spain, until May 21, 1916, for the construction of a secondary railway from Palencia to Aranda de Duero. The line will be of meter gauge and the average cost per kilometer must not exceed 100,000 pesetas (about \$19,466). The minimum weight per meter of the rails to be used will be 66 pounds. The Bureau has no further information relative to this opportunity.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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SUGGESTIONS FOR AMERICAN EXPORTERS TO SPAIN.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Madrid, Nov. 14.]

Americans intending to export to this district, in order to facilitate the introduction of their products, should comply with each of the following suggestions. There is a decrease in underpaid postage in this district, but typewritten signatures are on the increase; this latter habit, according to Madrid merchants, is indulged in by Americans, but otherwise is absolutely unknown here, and is interpreted as lack of interest in the matter in hand. The suggestions are as follows:

- (1) Postage to Spain is on the basis of 5 cents—not on the basis of 2 cents.
- (2) The introduction of American products will be facilitated if correspondence is in Spanish and if weights and measures are reduced to the metric system.
- (3) Signatures to correspondence should be in ink or indelible pencil—not typewritten.
- (4) Business will probably not ensue if quotations are limited to f. o. b. American port. The Madrid merchant will accompany an order with a sight draft for one-third of the invoice total; he will forward one-third more on receipt of the goods and he will forward the remainder 90 days thereafter. He will probably have no dealings on any credit basis other than the above.
- (5) The consulate would appreciate information from American houses as to the results of negotiations initiated by the consulate on behalf of American exporters.

Exporters Should State Nationality.

Consul General John P. Bray, of Singapore, reports that it is highly desirable that Americans wishing to open trade connections in the Straits Settlements should plainly state the nationality of the firms they represent. The need for such action has been brought to the consular officer's attention on several occasions, and he urges that the point mentioned be carefully observed by American exporters.

CONDITIONS IN AUSTRIAN AND GERMAN HOP DISTRICTS.

[Translation from article by Theodor Gauba, director of Saaz Hop Growers' Association, in *Prager Tagblatt*, Nov. 10.]

It has frequently been pointed out that while other products of the soil are mostly used for food and have, through the war, in the last two years risen to enormous prices, with hops the contrary is the case, because hops are products of the soil which are exclusively used for making beer. Austria-Hungary and Germany, as is well known, produce, as the principal hop-growing districts of the world, not only what is annually required for local (national) use for making beer, but are also obliged, according to their crops, to export 50 to 75 per cent of their product.

In consequence of the war the export has been stopped for months. The production of beer has, in both countries, been restricted to 40 per cent of the normal output, and the inland demand for hops has dropped by thousands of centners, whereas in 1914, principally in Germany but also in Austria, there were record hop crops. (Centner=50 kilos, 110 pounds.)

Prices Do Not Cover Increased Expenses of Production.

Although the year 1915 produced but comparatively small crops in both countries, the reserve had become large, so that the prices for 1915, which now vary between 20 and 70 marks (mark=\$0.238) in Germany, between 55 and 80 kronen (krone=\$0.203) for Austrian hops, and between 80 and 125 kronen for Saaz hops, do not cover, by far, considering the small crops, the increased expenses of growing. The hop producers of Austria-Hungary and Germany were therefore working in both years of the war at a loss which may be estimated at millions.

The total loss for Austria-Hungary to the hop trade for the year 1914 may be figured to amount to more than \$3,400,000. For both the years of the war the total loss to the trade may be placed at \$10,000,000. The loss to the hop trade in Germany rises even higher than with us, and it would be a task for a competent person even approximately to estimate it. The consequence of these unfortunate conditions which for the present are only ascribed to the hop trade will also hurt the breweries, but not before a year or two has passed. Forced by two unprofitable years, the hop trade of Austria-Hungary and Germany will of course be obliged further to restrict the hop acreage.

Hop Growers Will Turn to Other Crops.

The hop growers will turn to the culture of other products of the soil, principally grain, turnips, and other foods, as these products will quite certainly, for the next few years, show good and profitable prices.

In Austria-Hungary and Germany we may count on a decrease of acreage of perhaps 25 to 30 per cent, and the largest percentage of this reduction will have to be borne by those districts which in 1915 either could not sell their hops or sold them at very low prices, as Upper Austria, Galicia, Hungary, and districts in Bavaria, Wurttemberg, Baden, and Alsace-Lorraine.

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad, Austria, Nov. 20.]

Labor Supply for Hop Picking and Wages Paid.

Through an arrangement between the Saaz Hop Growers' Association and the Bohemian Registry and Employment Bureau, a suffi-

cient number of hop pickers was obtained to take care of the crop. The fee of the bureau had to be paid. These pickers, who came mostly from the "Bohemian Forest" or the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains), were furnished with transportation from their homes to the hop district the first of the season, and at its close were given free transportation home. Their employers furnished them with living sheds, and daily with soup, bread, and potatoes.

This year the wage for picking was \$4.80 per centner of 110 pounds; last year it was \$4. In 1914 the average cost, per centner, for growing hops in the Saaz District was \$13.20. This year, on account of the greatly increased cost of labor, etc., the cost per centner averages \$22.12. About three-fourths of the Saaz crop of this year has been sold, the buyers being mostly middlemen.

[Previous dispatches relating to this year's production of hops were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 30, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, and Oct. 20, 1915.]

NEW ZEALAND PUBLIC-WORKS LOAN.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 17.]

The 4½ per cent public-works loan of \$9,733,000 authorized by the New Zealand Government has just more than twice over been subscribed at par, and financial conditions in general are in splendid shape and the monetary outlook is good. In speaking of the loan Sir Joseph Ward, minister of finance, had the following to say:

It will be a considerable time before the Government goes upon the New Zealand market for another loan. In all human probability we shall not have completed the expenditure of this money on public works when the war reaches its conclusion. War-loan money, which has been coming into the country at the rate of £500,000 (\$2,433,250) a month, or £6,000,000 (\$29,199,000) a year, will then have ceased to reach us, and the question of future borrowing and where it shall be effected will be considered at that time. The Government will continue to assist settlers and workers by advancing money at low rates of interest in comparison to what we are paying to investors. We will continue to make advances to local bodies also, the limit in that branch being £5,000 (\$24,332) for a single advance. This certainly should have a steadying effect on the money market.

The loan was extensively taken by the small investor, which speaks well for the credit of the country and the patriotism of the people, when loans in other parts of the world are made at 5 per cent or higher.

It is proposed to use the proceeds of the loan solely for internal improvements, public and private, as indicated above by the minister of finance. The advances made by the Government are often of great benefit to private undertakings and aid materially in developing industrial and agricultural developments, that must languish without it.

Interchange of American-Chilean Commodities.

In the September quarter 2,000 barrels of Portland cement were imported from the United States and large quantities of American rice were contracted for by Valparaiso firms as a direct result of the trade-extension efforts of Consul General L. J. Keena. During the same period 609 barrels of Chilean honey were sold to American purchasers through the medium of a Trade Opportunity submitted by Mr. Keena and published in COMMERCE REPORTS.

QUICKSILVER PRODUCTION MORE THAN DOUBLED IN VALUE.

The domestic output of quicksilver in 1915, based on preliminary figures collected from the individual producers by the United States Geological Survey, was 20,681 flasks of 75 pounds each, valued at the average domestic price for the year at San Francisco (estimated at \$85.50 a flask) at \$1,768,225. Compared with the survey's final statistics for 1914, which gave a production of 16,548 flasks, valued at \$811,680 (the smallest since 1860), the output of 1915 shows an increase of 4,133 flasks in quantity and of \$956,545 in value. The value therefore more than doubled, owing to the greatly increased prices demanded, but the quantity increased only about 25 per cent. The production was the largest in value since 1881 and the greatest in quantity since 1912. On comparing the production of 1881 with that of 1915 in value, it is interesting to note that it required 60,851 flasks at the average price of \$29.83 per flask for that year to exceed in value the much smaller output at the greatly enhanced average price for 1915.

The estimated output for California in 1915 was 13,916 flasks, valued at \$1,189,818, against 11,303 flasks, valued at \$554,414 in 1914. The chief producers in California in 1915 were the New Idria mines, of San Benito County; the New Guadalupe and New Almaden, of Santa Clara County; the Oceanic, of San Luis Obispo County; the St. John, of Solano County; and the Oat Hill, of Napa County. Among other producers were the Mercy, of Fresno County; Great Western, Wall Street, and Helen, of Lake; Parkfield, of Monterey; the Knoxville and the Aetna mines, of Napa; the Wonder and Hernandez, of San Benito; the Cambria and Karl, of San Luis Obispo; the Los Prietos, of Santa Barbara; the Phoenix, of Santa Clara; the Great Eastern and Cloverdale, of Sonoma; and the Reed, of Yolo.

No production of quicksilver was reported to the survey from Arizona, Oregon, Utah, or Washington in 1915, although some development work was reported from Arizona and Oregon. In Nevada, active prospecting and development continued in 1915, and the total output increased. The combined output of quicksilver in Nevada and Texas was 6,765 flasks, valued at \$578,407, in 1915, against 5,233 flasks, valued at \$256,678, in 1914.

The European war directly affected the domestic quicksilver industry—first, by greatly increasing the demand for the metal in the manufacture of fulminate for explosives, and second, by reducing the imports of foreign supplies into the United States. The net result has been steadily increasing prices and encouragement to producers to operate at maximum capacity. For the first time in many years the demand has called for more than the output. The productive capacity of the domestic quicksilver mines is small but has averaged, in recent years, more than the demand, which has fallen off since cyanidation has so largely replaced amalgamation in the recovery of gold and silver from their ores.

The average San Francisco domestic market price is estimated at \$85.50 for 1915, against \$49.05 for 1914. With the exception of the year 1874, when the average price was \$105.18 per flask of 76½ pounds, the average price of 1915 was the highest since the beginning of the industry in 1850, when the average for the year was given as \$99.45.

The records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce show that the exports of quicksilver from the United States for the calendar year 1915 were about 3,300 flasks, valued at an average of about \$67.73 per flask, against exports of 1,446 flasks in 1914. The imports entered for consumption are estimated for 1915 at 5,200 flasks, valued at about \$52.70 per flask, against 8,198 flasks in 1914.

BRADFORD EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Dec. 9.]

The declared exports from the Bradford consular district to the United States during November were larger than during any month since the outbreak of the war. They amounted to \$2,888,910, as compared with \$1,138,475 in November, 1914. The increase was due largely to the export of raw material, the value of wool exported being \$1,772,590 and wool noils and waste, \$56,785. These items were larger than in the preceding month; when the embargo was raised, while in November, 1914, no raw wool was shipped, owing to the strictness of the embargo. Exports of wool tops, which were shipped in small quantities in October for the first time since last June, amounted to \$30,009.

The shipments of worsted and mohair yarns appear, however, to be steadily decreasing, the totals for November being practically negligible, while prior to the war they were over \$100,000 each month. Exports of wool and mohair cloths amounted in November to \$436,949, a decrease of \$248,832, as compared with the same month in 1914, while, on the other hand, cotton cloths (being mostly dyed cloths such as linings) amounted to \$376,096, an increase of \$249,543 over the same period in 1914. Large American orders for spun silk yarn have been placed in this district, and the shipments in November amounted to \$77,294. The embargo on Tusseh silk noils is still in effect and no shipments have been made, though stocks here appear to be in excess of local demand.

The total value of the declared exports from Bradford to the United States for the first 11 months of 1915 amounted to \$17,576,218, a big decrease as compared with \$29,089,903 for the same period of the previous year. The feature so far in 1915 has been that during the last two quarters of the year the exports have been steadily increasing, while last year, owing to the embargo, there was a great falling off in the last three months.

TO STUDY USE OF LIME HYDRATE IN CONCRETE.

The use of lime hydrate in Portland-cement concrete has been advocated so vigorously that the United States Bureau of Standards recently advocated the calling of a conference at which a number of engineers and chemists vitally interested in Portland cement and lime hydrate would present their views, including those engineers and chemists who are more or less neutral on this subject. Such a meeting has been held at Pittsburgh, and about 20 from outside of the city attended. The use of this material in concrete was discussed, and an investigation was outlined to include all phases of the question.

HONGKONG FLOUR PROSPECTS UNCERTAIN.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, China, Nov. 8.]

The flour situation in China has been in a very uncertain state during the closing months of 1915, and the prospects for the coming season are fully as uncertain. The imports of American flour into Hongkong during the first nine months of 1915 have amounted to only a fraction of the number of bags imported in the corresponding period of 1914, but aside from the decreased imports, which have been due in the first place to the high price of flour in the United States and the high freight rates obtaining on the Pacific, the decrease has been due very largely to the operations of the Yangtze Valley and northern Chinese mills, which have been shipping flour into Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow, and the Hongkong import field generally, and have also been exporting considerable quantities into the Straits Settlements, the Malay States, Java, and various other portions of the East Indies.

This actual competition on the part of the Chinese product with American and other imported flour, which has been anticipated and more or less discounted, is complicated, however, by various local considerations which have made it difficult if not impossible to deal with the situation successfully from an American standpoint.

Results of Irregularity in Supply of Chinese Flour.

The supply of Chinese flour is irregular at all times, particularly because of irregular supplies of Chinese wheat. The result is that whereas Chinese sellers may be in the market one day with a considerable supply of flour, they may be out of the market entirely the next day. Chinese buyers, accordingly are disposed to buy only for immediate needs, and American sellers find it difficult, if not impossible, to anticipate in any degree of accuracy what the requirements of the Chinese in the near future are likely to be. Inasmuch as it is impossible to ship flour across the Pacific at present, except on advance engagements of tonnage in trans-Pacific steamers, which must be paid for, the situation becomes almost an impossible one. Business is done more or less on a hand-to-mouth basis, and is irregular and unsatisfactory at best.

Special Tax Upon Certain Exports of Flour.

In actual Chinese competition with Chinese flour, also, serious irregularities are met with. By Chinese law the export of flour from China to any foreign country is prohibited, but in practice the export from certain ports and under certain conditions is allowed upon the payment of a special tax. This tax on the export of flour from Shanghai at the present time, for example, is 60 cents a bag upon a fixed and agreed amount of flour, and flour shipped from Shanghai to Hongkong or Singapore, for example, pays that tax. However, flour can be shipped from Shanghai to Amoy or Swatow or other Chinese port without the payment of this special tax, and it can there be transhipped and sent on to Hongkong or Singapore at a tax of about 15 cents a sack. The general understanding is that when the amount of flour upon which a tax of 60 cents per sack had been established is shipped from Shanghai, the tax will be lowered, but there seems to be disagreement among the authorities as to the point to which it will be lowered, since both 25 cents per bag and 32½ cents per bag are given as the amount of the new tax.

Stocks in Hongkong at Present Unusually Small.

All these considerations affect directly the sale of American flour in this field, especially the sale of American flour in southern and East Indian ports from Hongkong stocks. Stocks in Hongkong at the present time are unusually small, amounting to no more than 220,000 bags. Considerable shipments are enroute from the United States, but much of the flour now coming has been brought over as against possible freight difficulties.

It is already apparent that Australian competition with American flour will be unusually keen in the East Indies, and perhaps even in the Chinese portion of Hongkong's field, during the next few months. Crops in Australia are reported very large. American flour, through Hongkong jobbers, has been going freely to the East Indies during the past year.

[Previous articles on the flour situation in China were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 28 and Dec. 8, 1915.]

TRAFFIC IN WATER-SOAKED OYSTERS.

Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture, in giving special attention to the heavy traffic in oysters during the holiday season, have found that it is the practice of some dealers to add fresh water to shucked oysters in such a way as to greatly increase the size of the oysters. The oyster when brought in contact with fresh water for several hours will "drink" or absorb a considerable quantity of the water, and will increase in size in exact proportion to the amount of water which it "drinks." As oysters are usually sold by the pint or quart, any increase in their size, due to the addition of water, enables the dealer to fill the pint or quart measure with a smaller number of oysters.

In order to increase the size, oysters must be soaked in fresh water or water that is only slightly salty. They will not "drink" enough of the salt water in which they are grown to increase materially in bulk. Nor will oysters increase in bulk to any extent from being washed in fresh water if they are allowed to remain for only the few minutes necessary to cleanse them.

The practice of increasing the bulk by the addition of water is not confined to shucked oysters. Some dealers float the oysters for several hours while yet in the shell, in fresh water or water that is much less salty than the water in which the oysters were grown.

The addition of water to oysters lowers their food value, and such oysters are adulterated under section 7 of the food and drugs act, which provides that food is adulterated if a "substance has been mixed and packed with it so as to reduce or lower or injuriously affect its quality or strength," and also if "a substance has been substituted in whole or in part for the article." The shipment of such oysters in interstate commerce or their sale in the District of Columbia or the Territories of the United States constitutes in the department's opinion a violation of the food and drugs act. The Oyster Growers' and Dealers' Association of North America is cooperating with the Department of Agriculture in stopping interstate traffic in oysters adulterated in this manner. State officials are also cooperating.

CHINESE GUILDS POPULAR IN SWATOW'S TRADE.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Nov. 3.]

Chinese guilds are established to decide any questions which affect generally the merchants belonging to them, to settle trade disputes and questions of collection of debts among their members, or disputes between members and outsiders. Each guild has its own particular days of meeting, or, rather, "dinners," in which all members join. The guild also levies a kind of contribution for its support and for a reserve fund. There is an admission fee as well as a regular levy. Any firm may be admitted into a guild, provided it is willing to pay the fees and obey the guild rules.

Until the revolution large importing firms did not join the guilds, as the advantage they could get was small and the fees were heavy. (The fees are based on the amount of business transacted and amount to about one-tenth of 1 per cent of the business done.) During the revolution the commanding officer of the troops stationed at Swatow appealed to the chamber of commerce for support for his soldiers, and these importers were then compelled to join and pay dues.

Some Chinese Guilds Have Special Functions.

There are certain guilds which have special functions. For instance, the banking guild fixes the rate of exchange and rate of interest daily; the sugar merchants' guild takes charge of and loans the guild's official steelyards for weighing sugar, etc.

In everyday business dealings there is no difference between a member and a nonmember merchant. The members of the guild compete among themselves as well as against outsiders; that is to say, the guilds lay no restrictions on the routine transaction of business.

Some of the principal lines of business having guilds in Swatow, with the customary lengths of credit granted by the firms engaged in these lines, are:

Business.	Terms of credit.	Places to or from which goods are shipped.
Beancake and bean merchants.....	1 month.....	From North China.
Cereal merchants.....	.....do.....	From North China and South Seas.
Piece-goods merchants.....	One-third per month until settlement.	From Hongkong.
Hongkong import and export merchants.....	60 days.....	Do.
Cotton and yarn merchants.....	1 month.....	From North China and Hongkong.
Drug merchants.....	Settled each year.....	Do.
Sugar merchants.....	60 per cent cash, balance 15 days.	To North China.
North China sundries merchants.....	Various.....	From North China.
Match merchants.....	1 month.....	From Japan.
Fruit merchants.....	Cash.....	To South Seas.
Sundries merchants.....	Festival or end of year.....	Various places.
Wine merchants.....	1 month.....	From North China.
Oil, bean, and peanut merchants.....	Cash.....	To Hongkong and locally.
Dry-provision merchants.....	25 per cent per month.....	To Singapore, Siam, etc.
South Sea merchants.....	.....	From various places.
Salt-fish merchants.....	.....	From Hoihow.
Hoihow merchants.....	.....	.....

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Saigon, French Indo-China, Oct. 22.]

Contracts to be Let for Irrigation and Navigation Project in Tonkin.

As a preliminary to the letting of contracts for the mixed irrigation and navigation project on the left bank of the Rouge and both banks of the Claire River, in the Province of Vinh-yen, just north of Vietri,

the Government has, on its own account, been making experiments in constructing embankments, floodgates, and irrigation and drainage ditches.

In December, 1914, excavation was begun on a retaining wall, and a floodgate 30 meters (98.4 feet) wide, on the left bank of a small stream at Lien-Son, about 25 miles above Vietri. The excavation presented no difficulties, and it was found that the soil was firm enough to support retaining walls of masonry. These walls had reached a height of about 2 meters (6.56 feet), when the work was interrupted by the unprecedented floods of July and August. They will be rebuilt immediately. On the left bank attention was given to constructing a floodgate, and draining about 25 square meters of land which seemed to present the greatest difficulties. The attempt was successful, and has demonstrated the possibility of constructing concrete floodgates.

No contracts have yet been made for the construction of dikes and canals in connection with the project; but the specifications are now in preparation for the first set of contracts, and sealed bids will soon be called for. These contracts will call for the construction of 13 miles of principal and 18 miles of secondary canals. Subsequent contracts will be granted for 30 miles of principal and 12 miles of secondary canals.

This project, involving an expense of nearly \$300,000 (U. S. currency), was approved by the Government December 26, 1913. The construction work will be mainly of reinforced concrete, and as cement is one of the principal exports of Tonkin there will be little opportunity for foreign exporters of this product. The machinery most in demand for this work will be concrete mixers and excavating machinery. Further information may be obtained from l'Ingenieur en Chef, Bureau des Travaux Publics, Hanoi. Correspondence should be in French.

IMPORTANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT IN CUBA.

[Consul P. Merrill Griffith, Santiago de Cuba, Dec. 9.]

Considerable interest is manifested here by many prominent citizens in the construction of a public road between Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo. The distance represented by the proposed route is about 60 miles and the work as far as Moron has already been completed, that portion from Santiago de Cuba to Cristo being in excellent condition. It was built during the American intervention.

Work is now going on in the vicinity of Moron, and in order, if possible, to secure an additional appropriation from the Federal Government through the present Congress, a mass meeting was held at La Maya on November 30. It was attended by more than 1,000 persons, special delegates being sent by all the municipalities along the proposed route.

The remainder of the distance from Moron to Guantanamo is through a mountainous section of the country, and it is stated that the cost of construction will amount to about \$15,000 per mile.

It is hoped that the enterprise may be successfully carried out, inasmuch as it would prove of inestimable value to the commercial and industrial interests of this section of the island. The president of the executive committee elected at the mass meeting is Mr. Luis Hechavarria, whose address is Santiago de Cuba.

SPANISH MARKET FOR COAL**[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Oct. 30.]**

The amount of coal consumed in Malaga, about 150,000 tons a year, has not been reduced on account of the war, with the exception perhaps of bunker coal; but what has been affected by it has been the kind of coal consumed; that is, the importation of English and Welsh coal.

According to the customhouse statistics, in the calendar year of 1912 (figures for 1913 are not available), there were imported into Malaga 101,479 metric tons (1 metric ton=2,204.6 pounds) of coal and during 1914, 63,788 tons. This was all English and Welsh coal, for no other kind has ever been imported, as far as is known. When coal is cheap—about 23 shillings (\$5.60) for Newcastle, and 28 shillings (\$6.81) for Cardiff, c. i. f. Malaga—a good deal is sent from here to interior points of this Province. But now that prices are high—about 45 shillings (\$10.95) for Newcastle, and 50 shillings (\$12.17) for Cardiff, c. i. f. Malaga—Spanish coal from the mines at Peñarroya, near Cordova, about 125 miles from here, is brought to Malaga and used instead whenever possible. This native coal is of fair quality and somewhat resembles the English Newcastle; the best grades of it, Cabezas de Vaca and Graso, are estimated to be only about one-third less in steam-producing value than Newcastle or Cardiff. This Spanish coal costs 39 pesetas a ton (\$7.22) at the mines and can be laid down in Malaga for 50 pesetas. At the present rate of exchange of 5.40 pesetas to the \$1, this is equivalent to about \$9.25 a ton.

Terms Offered by American Firm Refused.

Welsh coal at the end of July, 1914, was quoted at 19 shillings (\$4.62) f. o. b. Cardiff; freight to Malaga was then about 8 shillings (\$1.95), making a total cost of \$6.57. As stated previously, the price of Cardiff, c. i. f. Malaga, is now about 50 shillings (\$12.17). The quotation for a cargo of 1,750 tons of American coal (the place of origin of the coal was undecipherable in the telegram) made recently to a leading wholesale dealer here to be sent by sailing vessel was 50 pesetas (\$9.25), c. i. f. Malaga. The offer was not accepted, the remark of the dealer to the writer being as follows:

As far as the purchase of American coal is concerned while the war is on—for competition is not possible with English coal when it is cheap—the merchants here can have their choice of English and Welsh coal at certain high prices, or, if they prefer, Spanish coal at a low price; all of which they have tried and know about. They don't want to pay cash for an American coal they don't know anything about and have never tried. Suppose they did order a cargo and it didn't turn out as was expected, it would mean a loss to the importer. We prefer not to take the chance. If Americans can supply as good coal as Cardiff and Newcastle for less money and can demonstrate its quality to us as well, they can do a good business here. The coal trade of Spain is worth having.

Users of Coal in Malaga.

Malaga has few manufactories, and the majority of these use electricity as motive power, which is supplied very cheap from the falls of El Chorro. The use of coal by the people generally is small, as on account of the mild climate no heat is used in the houses and cooking is done mostly by gas, coke, and charcoal. The consumption

of coal in Malaga is confined almost entirely to the Correos de Africa steamers, the gas company, the railroads, three sugar refineries, and a couple of fishing companies.

One railroad, of which the main office is at Paris but which is managed by a board of directors in Malaga, has a contract with the Peñarroya coal mines. It formerly owned these coal mines and on selling them to a French syndicate in 1900 made a contract by which the mine owners have to supply them with a large quantity of coal annually, about all they need, at a price said to be 37 pesetas (\$6.85) a ton. In return, the railroad company agreed to carry all coal from the mines to Malaga, for individual needs, at the rate, it is said, of 13 pesetas (\$2.41) a ton. The freight on the same quantity from Malaga to the mines, or any similar distance, would be about 20 pesetas (\$3.70).

The amount of coal consumed annually by the railroad is about 100,000 tons; before the war the company used to buy 15,000 to 20,000 tons of Cardiff each year for special service, such as express trains, and store it, part in Cadiz and part in Malaga. It is now using Spanish coal only. The director of the road stated that he was in receipt of numerous letters from American exporters of coal and that the latter could do nothing more at present than keep him posted at regular intervals by quotations, c. i. f. Malaga preferred. All plans for purchases of coal for this railroad are first agreed upon by the board of directors in Malaga and then submitted to the head office in Paris for ratification.

Railroad Needs—Gas Company—Coal for Steamers.

A Belgian railroad company of Malaga before the war imported the small quantity of coal it uses on its two lines, about 1,800 tons a year, from Belgium and Germany and paid 44 pesetas (\$8.14) a ton for it placed in Malaga. Last year Cardiff was substituted, and on the same conditions the price paid was 58 pesetas a ton (\$10.73). Next year the first section of the Malaga-Algeciras-Cadiz railroad will be finished, and the quantity of coal needed will be increased to probably 2,500 tons a year.

The gas company in 1914, before the war, purchased 10,000 tons of Newcastle at 25.72 pesetas (\$4.76) c. i. f. Malaga and now pays 50 shillings (\$12.17) a ton for it. The manager said that they have not tried American coal so far because of the uncertainty regarding its quality and especially the date when it can be delivered in Malaga. Gas coal, as is well known, can not be stored much over six months without danger of spontaneous combustion, so that the stock on hand of the company must be renewed every six months. Uncertainty as to the time of arrival of an order would cause the company serious inconvenience and embarrassment.

Purchases of coal for the gas company are made from Europe by an agent in Lyon, France, who annually contracts for about 200,000 tons. Of this amount 10,000 tons are delivered in Malaga and the remainder is distributed among a chain of companies in which the agent is interested at Venice, Florence, and Rome. It would be worth while for American exporters to make an effort to see him personally or at least communicate with him.

The steamship line known as the Correos de Africa, which has a daily service between Malaga and Melilla, the Spanish colony in

Africa, is a Valencia company. It maintains an agent in Liverpool whose business it is, among other duties, to buy coal. In 1914, 60,000 tons of English coal were purchased for the exclusive use of the steamers, 20,000 tons of which were sent to Malaga and 1,250 tons to Almeria, the rest being divided among the ports of Cadiz, Valencia, and Barcelona. Contracts are made by the board of directors in Valencia.

Bunker coal for tramp steamers is purchased from one of the wholesale dealers in Malaga.

Sugar Refineries—Fishing Companies—Iron Foundry.

The largest of the three sugar refineries in Malaga buys about 10,000 tons of English coal a year and will have to continue using as good a kind. Each of the other two refineries in 1914 imported about 3,000 tons of English coal, but this year the factories are closed and they use only enough for their agricultural machinery—about 1,000 tons a year each.

There are also one or two fishing companies in Malaga that maintain a fleet of about 25 steam trawlers. Before the war their managers imported English and German coal, but they are now using Spanish coal entirely; their imports were not large.

An iron foundry which failed some years ago has resumed operations this month by means of capital provided by a Belgian living in Nice, who is the largest shareholder in the new company.

Discharging Facilities—Freight Rates.

The port works of enlarging and improving the harbor, commenced in 1888, were finished a year or two ago. Three new piers, along which ships of the largest draft can lie, are available for loading and unloading cargoes; large cranes also have been sent up, and railroad tracks connecting the harbor with the station of the two railroads have been laid down the whole length of two of the piers. The facilities for discharging coal in Malaga are adequate.

The price of English and Welsh coal is possibly no higher in Great Britain than it was before the war; the whole of the advance in the price of this commodity in Spain is due to the great increase in the cost of freight on coal from Great Britain to Malaga; before the war it was about \$2.07 a ton and it is now \$6.07 to \$7.30, while \$7.79 was paid recently by the sugar refinery.

It remains to be seen whether there will be the same increase in freight on coal from the United States to Malaga. But if American exporters of coal can quote c. i. f. to Spanish ports cheaper than British coal exporters can, the former will be able to do a fair business. Freight should always be quoted c. i. f. Malaga in preference to f. o. b. American ports. British coal dealers who have studied the question of exporting to Spain try to save importers as much trouble as possible. The writer has a circular letter from one of them in which, in addition to the prices quoted on the coal, the freight rates from Cardiff and London to all the principal ports in Spain are given.

Suggestions for American Exporters.

As American coal has not been tried in Malaga, it would be well for exporters who write to Malaga making quotations to bear in mind that the names of the various coal districts in the United States mentioned by them in their letters, to indicate the kinds of coal on which

they are quoting, such as: Pocahontas, New River, Kanawha, etc., do not convey any idea to the minds of Malaga coal importers of the quality of the coal offered for sale. They probably have never heard the names before. In fact, it is doubtful whether the names of the coal-producing States in the United States are much better known. It is suggested, therefore, that when letters are sent to Spanish importers quoting prices for American coal, an analysis should be given of each kind offered, so that they may get an idea of the quality. It would be better still if a cargo could be consigned to a dealer to be sold at a minimum price. In all cases personal interviews should be arranged, if possible, with large importers; if letters are sent, they should be written in Spanish.

[The names and addresses of wholesale coal dealers in Malaga, the two railroad companies, the gas company and its agent in Lyon, the steamship company, the sugar refineries, and the iron foundry referred to may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 69885.]

BAHIA MARKET FOR CODFISH.

[Consul Robert Frazer, Jr., Bahia, Brazil, Nov. 17.]

An important business is done at Bahia in codfish, of which 129,000 drums were imported in 1914, a year of exceptionally depressed financial conditions and small imports. Customhouse figures show the following values of imports of codfish here during the past three years: 1912, \$1,161,750; 1913, \$1,296,864; 1914, \$1,220,232. Perhaps 90 per cent of the fish come from St. Johns, Newfoundland, and Halifax by sailing vessels direct, and some via New York by steamer from the same origin. Before the European war some codfish came from Norway via Hamburg. The Newfoundland fish arrive in drums of 128 pounds and half drums of 64 pounds net, while those from Norway were packed in cases. Nearly all the business is now done through Liverpool firms, who have branch houses or agents at St. Johns and Harbor Grace.

Before the war the price paid by importers varied between 40 and 45 shillings (\$9.73 and \$10.95) per drum c. i. f. Bahia, and is now said to be 48 to 52 shillings (equivalent to \$11.68 to \$12.65 at the normal rate of \$4.8665 per pound). The price at which cod is now being wholesaled here is about 56 milreis (\$13.44) per drum. The qualities preferred are known as "prime dry" and "seconds," the latter selling at 2s. 6d. (\$0.61) per drum less than the former.

The Brazilian tariff provides for a duty on codfish of 60 reis per kilo, less an arbitrary tare of 10 per cent in weight deducted when the fish are packed in drums. The actual duty, however, taking into consideration the 2 per cent surtax and the proportion of the duty payable in gold, is equivalent to \$0.99 per 100 pounds (1 milreis = \$0.24; 1 kilo = 2.2046 pounds). According to a bill covering a recent importation, 5.3 milreis (\$1.27) was paid per drum. This included customhouse broker's fee and all expenses connected with the customhouse.

Hake and pollock are not now known here, but if prepared and packed in the same way as codfish and offered at a competitive price, they might find acceptance in this market.

[The names of the leading importers of provisions at Bahia may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 69764.]

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NORWAY.

[American Minister A. G. Schmedeman, Christiania, Oct. 2.]

The cost of living in Norway since the war began has gone up enormously, some articles 100 per cent. It is estimated that the average increase is about one-third of 1 per cent. This is due to various causes. In some cases the producers are taking advantage of the situation to make large profits; then, again, it is impossible to import many products which were available formerly from other countries. As Norway is dependent on foreign countries for a great many of the necessities of life, the prices of some goods imported are greatly increased, owing to excessive shipping and insurance rates.

The Provision Commission (Proviantcommission) appointed by the Norwegian Government has for some time past endeavored to cope with the situation with a view to procuring stores of supplies and regulating the prices of all kinds of foodstuffs. The commission has asked permission of the Government to import frozen and conserved meat from Argentina, where a Norwegian firm has agreed to erect the necessary establishment for the freezing and conservation of slaughtered meat provided this permission be granted. Should this be brought about, the meat could be sold in Christiania at approximately 50 per cent cheaper than the present prices, whereas at present the prices are 50 per cent higher than before the outbreak of the war. Coal and coke, which latter is largely used for the heating of domestic stoves, have gone up over 100 per cent.

Increased Bank Deposits—Industrial and Agricultural Conditions.

There is an important increase in bank deposits. The bank statements in September, 1915, showed that the gold reserve was the largest in the history of the country. At the outbreak of the war the Norwegian Government obtained a loan of 11,000,000 kroner (\$2,948,000) in England, which will be paid back on the 7th instant.

Industrial conditions are normal. The output of the majority of the factories is rather above the average and labor is being well employed. The wood-pulp and paper factories have greatly increased their turnover, owing to increased shipments of paper to certain countries not in a position to supply their demands. The shipyards are likewise active and the canning factories are doing a large amount of business.

The crops are about the average. It had always been believed that it was impossible to grow wheat on the west coast of Norway, but it was tried for the first time this year with excellent results and the quality was found to be superior to that raised in the southeastern part of the country.

Telegraphic and Shipping Services.

Telegraphic conditions have improved, but are far from satisfactory. The "Proviantcommission" takes charge of the sending of commercial telegrams whenever required.

Notwithstanding that approximately 2 per cent of the Norwegian merchant vessels had been lost or sunk since the outbreak of the war, up to July 3, 1915, the Norwegian merchant marine is practically as large as it has ever been, as the shipowners purchase new vessels whenever they require them. Many such vessels are bought second-hand from different countries.

Export and Import Trade.

It is true that the list of goods of which the exportation is prohibited is considerable, but continuous and regular shipments take place of such goods as are not prohibited, more especially paper and timber and salted fish.

As previously stated, Norway has always been largely dependent on foreign countries for its supplies. Since the outbreak of the war the supplies from Russia and Germany have to a great extent been cut off, whereas the imports from the United States and Great Britain have greatly increased. Those from the United States consist chiefly of wheat, flour, meat, and lard. According to information received from the customs authorities here, it is estimated that the customs receipts this year will show a decrease of 4,000,000 kroner (\$1,072,000) as compared with last year. Coffee, sugar, raw tobacco, and other colonial products have lately been imported in large quantities.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions:

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Summers, Maddin.....	São Paulo, Brazil.....	Dec. 31	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Maynard, Lester.....	Amoy, China.....	do.	Do.
Peck, Willis R.....	Tsingtau, China.....	Jan. 31	Do.
Messersmith, George S.....	Fort Erie, Canada.....	Jan. 1	Lewes, Del.
Cheshire, Fleming D.....	Canton, China.....	Jan. 31	Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York, N. Y.
Robertson, W. Henry.....	Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	Dec. 31	Do.
Sammons, Thomas.....	Shanghai, China.....	Jan. 5	(a)
Chamberlain, George A.....	Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa.....	Dec. 31	Lotus Club, 110 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York City.
Canada, William W.....	Vera Cruz, Mexico.....	Feb. 1	Winchester, Ind.
Taggart, G. R.....	Cornwall, Canada.....	Jan. 5	2407 Eleventh Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Donald, George K.....	Maracaibo, Venezuela.....	Feb. 17	153 Church Street, Mobile, Ala.
Bonney, Wilbert L. ^b	San Luis Potosi, Mex.co.....	Feb. 13	1903 North Bush Street, Santa Ana, Cal.

^a The tour of American cities by Consul General Thomas Sammons, of Shanghai, includes Rochester, Albany, Canajoharie, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and San Francisco, concluding at the latter place Jan. 4, 1916. He will confer with business men at these places who are interested in trade in China.

^b Consul Wilbert L. Bonney shall visit San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, Cal., and San Antonio, Tex., and will advise the Chamber of Commerce in each of these cities of his arrival and address.

AMERICAN INSURANCE FOR CANADIAN SCHOOLS.

Vice Consul Gorman at Montreal, Canada, has received a letter from the treasurer of the municipality of Westmount, near Montreal, asking for the names of reliable fire insurance companies in the United States, with which insurance of the school buildings of the city against fire might be placed. A similar request has been made previously, without result. The official mentioned would be pleased to hear from American insurance companies which are prepared to offer rates for these public buildings in the Canadian city.

BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY NOTES.

[Consul General R. E. Mansfield, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 11.]

Construction of Car Ferries.

The contract for the construction of one of the two large car ferries to be used by the Canadian Northern Railway for the service between Vancouver Island and the mainland has been let to a ship-building company at Lewis, Quebec, at a cost of \$400,000. The boat will be 310 feet long, 52 feet wide, and 20-foot draft, with a capacity for carrying 25 of the largest railway cars, in addition to passenger accommodations. The ferry will have a speed of 14 knots an hour, and will be propelled with double screws at each end. The contract calls for completion the 1st of July, 1916, and when completed the ferry will be brought to the Pacific coast via the Panama Canal.

Through Service Inaugurated on the Canadian Northern.

Transcontinental service was recently inaugurated on the Canadian Northern Railway, the first through train from Vancouver to the east leaving this port on November 25. This is the third railway in the Dominion to establish a regular ocean to ocean service, the first being the Canadian Pacific which has maintained a transcontinental service since 1885. The Grand Trunk, with Pacific terminals at Prince Rupert, British Columbia, was completed and a through service established last summer. The Canadian Northern, the last of the Dominion railways to enter the list of competitors for transcontinental business, has its terminals in this port. The Grand Trunk will also have railway terminals in Vancouver, and connections with the main line over a branch road now in the course of construction. At present the Vancouver connection is by steamer service with the company's fleet operating between Vancouver and Prince Rupert.

New Terminal Stations for the Great Northern.

Plans for the Great Northern Railway terminal passenger station in Vancouver have been submitted to the municipal authorities for approval, and the construction work on the foundations for the building will be started at once. The Northern Pacific, which has an operating agreement with the Great Northern, will also use the same station in Vancouver.

The terminals will consist of two units, a main building and an "L" for baggage, mail, and express business, thus dividing the utilities from the regular passenger facilities. The main structure will cover a ground area of 60 by 228 feet, and the "L" will be 40 by 130 feet.

The buildings will be of brick on a granite base, with terra-cotta trimmings. They will be erected on a pile foundation, and will be constructed of reinforced concrete.

The station itself will consist of a large waiting room, 60 feet wide and 100 feet long, which will contain the general passenger facilities. This room will be flanked by wings two stories high. On the lower level will be the smoking rooms, immigration rooms, ticket office, telegraph and telephone rooms, etc., and a large exhibit room. Quarters for the operating and traffic staffs and the administrative officials will be located on the upper stories. The Great Northern officials will occupy one wing and the Northern Pacific the other.

Prosperity for Canadian Roads.

The abundant crops in the prairie Provinces this year, the handling of which has taxed the capacity of the railways, and the interruption

of traffic through the Panama Canal on account of landslides has resulted in unusual activity in Canadian railway business, a condition especially favorable to the two new roads, the Grand Trunk and Canadian Northern, which have recently established through service from eastern ports to the Pacific coast. The passenger traffic was exceptionally good during the summer and autumn, due to the large number of people from the east visiting the Panama-Pacific Exposition, a considerable percentage of which made the trip, either going or coming, by way of Canada.

OPIMUM FOR HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Nov. 2; supplementing discussion in COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 25, 1914, and Feb. 11, 1915.]

A further step in the process of more completely controlling the opium trade in the future, and especially after the end of the period in which the drug can be legally imported into China, has been taken by the government of Hongkong in connection with the opium "farm" or monopoly. It is announced that hereafter the Hongkong government, instead of buying raw opium in the open market in India, will purchase its supply direct from the Indian Government at a fixed price. The contract will go into force on January 1, 1916, and is to run for five years. A similar arrangement has also been effected by the government of Singapore in behalf of the opium monopoly there.

The Hongkong government takes 360 chests and the Straits Settlements 3,000 chests. These quantities are to be sold by the Indian Government in addition to the 820 chests per month which has been fixed as the amount to be disposed of by that Government in the calendar year 1916. The arrangement not only enables the governments concerned to control the sale and use of opium in their respective territories by enabling them to secure the drug at a much lower price than other buyers, but at the same time it will increase their revenues immensely without materially affecting the revenues of India, since the purchases of the two governments are exclusive of and in excess of the limitation of sales of the drug already fixed.

Large Earnings of Hongkong Monopoly.

Incidental to the arrangement attention is again called to the immense profit earned by the Hongkong "farm" since it was taken over by the colonial government. The earnings last year amounted to \$3,741,500 instead of the \$1,183,200 of the previous year and \$1,426,800 more than was estimated when the monopoly was assumed by the Government. A further increase in earnings was estimated for the current year and this estimate has been somewhat exceeded, while the estimates for the coming financial year include an additional \$50,000 of profit from this source. Under the monopoly arrangement being effected for the control of opium consumption in South China, it is probable that the Hongkong monopoly will receive further benefit in that the use of the drug in Chinese and British territory will be more nearly upon the same conditions.

The opium monopoly in the Portuguese colony of Macao still takes 520 chests of opium per year, of which 260 chests are for local consumption and the rest for export to countries that still permit the trade.

MATÉ "TEA" PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL.

[Consul Maddin Summers, Sao Paulo.]

Yerba maté, or Paraguay tea, constitutes one of the sources of wealth in Southern Brazil. It is the largest article of export from Parana and one of the largest from Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catharina. The principal markets are Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, and Bolivia, in the order mentioned. In these countries maté is the popular drink of the people, almost to the exclusion of coffee and tea. It is supposed to have two great advantages over either coffee or tea—it is less stimulating and very much cheaper.

The maté tree is between 10 and 12 feet in height, the leaves resembling those of a pear tree. The grades of maté depend upon the amount of wood in the leaf. The following are the classifications: No. 1 maté, from Paraguay; No. 2, from Matto Grosso; No. 3, from Missoes Argentinas; No. 4, from Parana; No. 5, from Rio Grande and Santa Catharina.

Total Exportation of Maté to All Countries.

The total consumption of maté in Argentina alone amounts to 50,000 tons annually, of which Parana furnishes 18,000 and Santa Catharina 2,000 tons annually. Exact statistics are not available. The total exportation to all countries in 1913 was:

Exporting State.	Amount.	Value.
	<i>Tons.</i>	
Parana.....	49,538	\$7,740,440
Santa Catharina.....	3,793	307,000
Rio Grande do Sul.....	2,174	679,500
Total.....	55,505	8,726,940

The exportations from Santa Catharina have fallen off very greatly during the past 10 years and the quality of the tea is not as good as that of Parana maté.

Maté is prepared in the same way as tea, and may be taken with sugar and milk. In powder, it is prepared by infusion, putting it into a small vessel (a cuia) and pouring thereon a sufficient amount of boiling water. As the dust does not fall to the bottom of the vessel, the maté can be taken only by means of a "sucker," that is, a tube terminating in a small hollow ball pierced with holes. Travellers to Argentina have doubtless noticed many quaint maté pots, of silver and other metals, lavishly ornamented.

The Germans in Curitiba (the capital of the State of Parana) prepare it in the following manner: They heat the water, and when it is boiling add the maté. When the water begins to boil again they pour in a sufficient amount of cold water to stop the boiling. The dust then settles and the maté is taken pure.

Component Parts, as Compared with Tea and Coffee.

The component parts of maté, compared with tea and coffee, as prepared by Dr. Caminha, professor of the faculty of medicine at Rio de Janeiro, are:

In 1,000 parts.	Green tea.	Black tea.	Coffee.	Maté.
Essential oil.....	7.90	6.00	0.41	0.01
Chlorophyll.....	22.20	18.14	13.66	62.00
Resin.....	22.20	36.40	13.66	20.69
Tannin.....	178.00	128.80	16.39	12.28
Theine or caffeine.....	4.30	4.60	2.66	2.50
Extract and coloring matter.....	464.00	390.00	270.67	238.83
Fibers and cellulose.....	175.80	283.20	174.83	180.00
Ash.....	85.60	54.40	25.61	38.10

A firm in Curitiba, State of Parana, quotes a price on maté of 7 cents per pound f. o. b. Paranagua; in barrels of 220, 145, 75, and 25 pounds the cost of barrels and tare is: Of 220 pounds, 80 cents; of 145 pounds, 65 cents; of 75 pounds, 46 cents; 25 pounds, 30 cents.

Of two other exporters, one gives prices slightly in excess of the firm mentioned, while a third gives slightly lower prices. Another's quotations are 7 to 7½ cents per pound in large quantities f. o. b. Paranagua for the marks "M. Macedo" and "Gracita," respectively. Quotations as low as 6½ cents are given.

The Funch Edye Line stops at Paranagua on its outward voyage to southern Brazil. Arrangements for space can be made with the agents of the line in New York.

JAPANESE COMPETE FOR NEW ZEALAND'S TRADE.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 15.]

A strong effort is being made to have the Japanese steamship line, Nippon Yusen Kaisha, extend its sailings to New Zealand ports. This would greatly advance Japanese interests in New Zealand, just as an American steamship service between Atlantic ports of the United States and Australasian ports would advance American interests in this part of the world. The New Zealand Herald, a leading daily of this city, says:

In a letter to the mayor of Wellington, Dr. Miura, a member of the Japanese trade mission which visited New Zealand a few months ago, says:

"Japanese commercial men whom I met on my return to Japan were glad to have all the information acquired by the mission in New Zealand. They are sorely in need, however, of a direct line to New Zealand. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha runs to Sydney and Melbourne, but although endeavors have been made to induce the company to extend the Australian service to New Zealand, this country is still isolated, all eastern cargo having to be transhipped in Australia. Even so, an astonishing quantity of Japanese goods are finding their way into this market.

"It is a mistake to imagine because Japan can sell many manufactures at prices with which not even Germany could compete that it follows that such are very cheap. The Japanese merchant understands the principles of good marketing, and will never greatly undersell in any commodity that is fetching a good price. Those who come into contact with Japanese manufactures competing with similar goods of British, American, and German origin describe them as rougher, if cheaper, lacking finish, and not seriously affecting the values of the German quality of goods.

"The Japanese are genuinely anxious to buy as well as to sell. They have topped the market in certain descriptions of wool crutchings, and now promise to become in time an important factor in respect to the purchase of the best descriptions of Merinos, half-bred, and medium to superior crossbreds. They are extensive users, too, of leather for fancy goods and other manufactures. Consequently they are prospective purchasers of skins and hides. What they buy from us is infinitesimal compared with what we buy from them, and they are extending their influence in this country by seeking to acquire the trade that Germany can not now do, and some which the British, for the time being, are not able to do."

CONSTRUCTION WORK ABROAD.**CHINA.**

[Far Eastern Review, October.]

Proposed Chinese Railway.

The construction of the long-talked-of Tsitsihar-Aigun Railway has been decided to be taken in hand early next spring, as reported after a consultation of Military Commissioner Chu, of Heilungkiang, with the Chinese Government.

CHOSEN (KOREA).

[Far Eastern Review, October.]

Railways of Chosen.

In Seoul the completion of 1,000 miles of railway track in Chosen (Korea) was celebrated recently by a ceremony held in Kyongpook Palace grounds in the presence of Prince Kan-in, of Japan. Since 1906 railway building has been continuous, and the Pyongyang-Chinnampo line and iron bridge over the Yalu soon were completed. On the completion of the Antung-Mukden Railway connection was effected between the railway system in Korea and Manchuria, and the trunk railway in Korea became the shortest route from Europe and east Asia, the journey being much facilitated by the new harbor works at Fusan.

Among railway works undertaken since the annexation was the Hanam line. Begun in October, 1910, its trunk and branch lines, totaling 175 miles, were finished in January, 1914. No less important a work was the Seoul-Wonsan line, connecting the trunk railway with the eastern coast of the peninsula. It measured 138 miles in length, and was finished in August, 1914. With a view to having a railway through South and North Hamkyong Provinces, a plan had been laid down for two local lines, one from Wonsan to Yanheung and the other from Chongjin to Hoiryong, and work was commenced last October, with the result that the section from Wonsan to Munchon, a distance of 12 miles, was completed on August 1 last. The total mileage of Korean railways has thus reached 1,006.

INDIA.

[Far Eastern Review, October.]

Indian Railway and Irrigation Projects.

The Mayurbhanj Railway project is an undertaking to acquire the existing Mayurbhanj (light) Railway and to provide funds for the extension of this line to Talbund. The length of the existing railway is 32.41 miles of 2 foot 6 inch gauge connecting Rupsa, on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway main line, with Baripada, the capital of Mayurbhanj State. The length of the proposed extension from Baripada to Talbund is 38.69 miles, to make with the existing railway a total length of 72 miles on the 2 foot 6 inch gauge.

The proposed extension will run mostly through low forest. An irrigation scheme is nearing completion and already practically irrigates 10,964 acres. This should be completed during 1915. A further scheme is under contemplation which, with the area already irrigated, should command above 600 square miles; it is expected that out of this new area 180 square miles will be irrigated.

There are extensive forests beyond Baripada, the present terminus of the line, which have hitherto been practically unexploited owing to the prohibitive cost of carting.

One of the main objects of the extension is to provide an outlet for the large supply of excellent timber for sleepers and building purposes which the Simlipahar forest will supply. These forests are capable of producing 500,000 cubic feet of timber annually.

The extension will also render marketable other forest produce such as myrobalans, etc., which are not exported now owing to the prohibitive cost of cartage.

JAPAN.

[Far Eastern Review, October.]

Japanese Railway Program.

The Imperial Railway Board, of Japan, has been framing its own special budget to be introduced in the Diet this fall. A statement made by an official of the department is that the whole expenditure for the second year of the seven-year plan of improvement started last year will be \$19,920,000. Of this amount \$5,229,000 will be devoted to construction work and \$14,691,000 for repair work. As for revenue, the board estimates that traffic receipts will amount to \$60,607,000 and miscellaneous receipts to about \$1,245,000, totaling \$61,852,000. Expenditures will amount to \$53,137,000, the balance of \$8,715,000 to constitute a net profit of the board. To this profit will be added \$9,960,000 from the redemption fund. Then there will be about \$1,245,000 that can be transferred for the use of the board, making in all \$19,920,000.

Lines will be built as follows: Twenty-five miles between Hamada and Masuda, 88 miles between Miyazaki and Saiki, 34 miles between Yamada and Suzaki, 19 miles between Yamagata and Sazawa, 87 miles between Ootonefui and Wakanai.

SPAIN.

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Nov. 3.]

Railway Construction in Malaga.

Construction work on the railway that is being built by a Belgian company from Malaga to Algeciras and Cadiz, which was suspended on account of the cessation of funds from Belgium after the outbreak of the war, was renewed in September. It was thought a few months ago that, on account of the impossibility of finding the necessary capital to continue the work, the railway would not be completed in the six years specified in the contract with the Spanish Government and that the latter would have to take it over. An arrangement, however, has been made whereby the Spanish Government has released, of the 4,800,000 pesetas (about \$890,000 at the present exchange rate of \$0.185 to the peseta) deposited as guaranty for the construction, the sum of 800,000 pesetas (\$148,000). This amount represents the value of the construction already completed on the first section of the line, from Malaga to Fuengirola, a distance of 30 kilometers (18.6 miles). On the completion of this section the company will have again to look for new funds or the help of the Spanish Government for the further completion of the road.

The total cost of the railroad from Malaga to Cadiz will be 48,000,000 pesetas (about \$8,900,000), on which sum the Spanish Govern-

ment guarantees 5 per cent interest annually, and as each of the five sections to be built is finished interest will begin on the amount of its cost.

The projected line after leaving Malaga will pass through the towns of Torremolinos, Benalmadena, Fuengirola, Marbella, Estepona, Tesorillo, Almorema (where there will be a branch line to Algeciras), Alcala, Medina-Sidonia, and San Fernando to Cadiz. The whole of this section of Andalusia is rich and productive and should prove very profitable to the railroad. Fuengirola has 15,000 people, and exports quantities of fish, raisins, and olives. Marbella has 25,000 inhabitants, and ships olives and vegetables, besides much iron and lead. An English mining company is located there. Estepona has 20,000 people, and exports raisins, figs, vegetables, and a great deal of cork. Tesorillo is of importance because near by is located the largest sugar refinery in the Province, whose imports and exports of merchandise of various kinds are very heavy. Alcala and Medina-Sidonia are towns of 10,000 inhabitants each, in the vicinity of which much live stock is raised.

The completion of this railroad will, it is thought, prove of importance to Malaga in that tourists who now go from Algeciras to Granada via Bobadilla (263 miles), an all-day journey owing to many long and tedious waits at small stations, will not only save some hours' time by taking the new route, which is to pass along the Mediterranean coast, but will also see some charming scenery.

Of the total cost of the complete line the proportion that will be expended in the purchase of the rolling stock is estimated to be 2,000,000 pesetas (about \$370,000). If American capitalists could be found who would provide the amount necessary for the completion of the road, it could be made a condition of the loan that this rolling stock should be purchased in the United States. Communications should be in French or Spanish.

[The name of the official of the railroad company to whom communications should be addressed may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 69756.]

REPORT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ROTTERDAM.

The report of the Chamber of Commerce of Rotterdam for 1914, translated from the Dutch into English, is a volume of 286 pages, and contains a review of commercial conditions during the first few months of the European war, with discussions of the various measures taken to overcome difficulties that arose. Chapters are devoted to the money market, shipping traffic, and trade reviews relating to general merchandise, coffee, tea, cacao, rice, spices, sugar, tobacco, oleomargarine and cottonseed oil, gum elastic, rubber, honey, hides, fibers, tin, coal, ores, iron and steel, and the general inland trade. The appendix presents a list of the regular steamship lines from Rotterdam in 1914, the return of seagoing vessels entered at Rotterdam during 1914, showing countries of nationality, and general imports into the Netherlands and at Rotterdam. A copy of this report may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 70261.

THE MEXICAN OIL FIELDS.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Tampico, Dec. 10.]

The attention of the oil interests during the past week has centered on the well of the Pan American Oil Co., at Panuco, which was brought in on the first of the month and has been conservatively estimated to have a production of 2,000 barrels per day. Oil was first struck at a depth of 1,760 feet and drilling was immediately suspended. As soon as earthen storage is constructed, the well will be drilled deeper. The chances are good that a gusher will be struck at a deeper level. Practically all of the stock of the Pan American Oil Co. is controlled by Americans residing in Tampico. The well is located about 400 yards from the Harmon and Corona Oil Co. gushers.

Leasing of Oil Lands.

There has been considerable leasing of oil lands in the southern fields during the past two months. A number of companies that now have production in the Panuco field have taken up leases in the Tuxpam fields where a lighter gravity of oil is found. Most of the oil that has been produced in the Panuco field is about 12.5 gravity, while the oil produced in the Tuxpam fields is between 18 and 20 gravity. The Compania Mexicana de Petroleo "El Aguila" S. A. is now making preparations to commence drilling again in the State of San Luis Potosi near Valles. The company drilled three wells in this territory over two years ago, which are the deepest oil wells in Mexico. The first one was drilled to a depth of 4,000 feet, where a production of several barrels a day of 47 gravity oil was obtained. Owing to the high gravity of the oil in that vicinity, the company has decided to again start exploration work and endeavor to secure a larger production.

Dredging Tampico Bar—Oil Shipments to United States.

The government dredge *Tampico* is now at work on the bar at the mouth of the Panuco River, but so far no appreciable improvement has been effected, although the pilots now consent to ships being loaded to a depth of 19 feet 6 inches, which is 6 inches more than they would allow the previous month. They state that the current has washed the bar out sufficient to allow this added depth.

The shipments of crude oil from Tampico to the United States during November amounted to 778,225 barrels, as compared with 1,106,248 barrels during the same month the preceding year. This decrease is due to a great extent to the condition of the harbor. Ships that carried 22 feet over the bar last year can take but 19 feet 6 inches at the present time.

The shipments for November were as follows: 96,904 barrels to Galveston, Tex.; 91,228 to Port Aransas, Tex.; 88,515 to Port Arthur, Tex.; 78,556 to New York; 77,000 to Baltimore; 74,986 to New Orleans; 66,772 to Providence, R. I.; 62,000 to Philadelphia; 28,772 to Lynchburg, Tex.; 28,000 to Sabine, Tex.; 25,000 to Baton Rouge, La.; 20,000 to Key West; 17,000 to Tampa; 15,992 to Freeport, Tex.; and 7,000 barrels to Jacksonville, Fla.

The Huasteca Petroleum Co. shipped 325,264 barrels of this amount to the United States; the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, 149,000 barrels; the Texas Co., 120,499 barrels; the East Coast Oil Co., 96,904

barrels; the Freeport & Mexican Fuel Oil Co., 45,558 barrels; the Mexican Gulf Oil Co., 34,000 barrels; and the Pierce Oil Corporation, 7,000 barrels.

The Huasteca Petroleum Co. also made one shipment to Iquique, Chile, amounting to 70,405 barrels and made deliveries of 254,237 barrels to companies in Tampico.

Shipments from Tuxpam to United States.

During November 491,378 barrels were shipped from Tuxpam, Mexico, to the United States by the Compañía de Petróleo "El Aguila" S. A. and the Penn Mex Fuel Co.

The shipments of the Compañía de Petróleo "El Aguila" S. A. were as follows: 100,783 barrels to Galveston; 66,593 to Baltimore; 38,713 to Port Tampa, Fla.; 21,180 to Sabine, Tex.; and 7,000 to Jacksonville, Fla. Besides the amount shipped to the United States the Compañía de Petróleo "El Aguila" S. A. made a number of shipments to England and also to its refinery at Minatitlan, Mexico.

The Penn Mex Fuel Co. made the following deliveries to United States ports: 133,207 barrels to Baton Rouge, La.; 50,413 to Baltimore; and 56,484 to New York.

SIZES OF CASES FOR AUSTRALIAN FRUIT.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Melbourne.]

The Government of the State of Queensland, under the authority of the fruit-cases act, has put into effect the following regulations:

All cases for the Queensland trade must be new or clean and free from insect or fungus diseases.

New cases only must be used for fruit exported to any of the other Australian States.

It is also provided that each case, whether the fruit is for sale in Queensland or any other Australian State, must have legibly and durably on one end of the outside of the case:

The name and address of the packer of the case.

The words "guaranteed by packer to contain one Imperial bushel," or as the size of the case may warrant.

In the case of the tropical-fruit case the guarantee should be:

Guaranteed by maker to contain not less than 3,504 cubic inches.

The above name, address, and guarantee should be at least 5 inches long and 2 inches wide; but stamps 3 inches by 1½ inches and upward will be accepted.

The following sizes have been established as standard for the packages used in the State. The dimensions are the same as those required by the New South Wales laws that are already in force. Any case must be of one of the following inside measurements, clear of any divisions:

Kind.	Length, inches.	Depth, inches.	Width, inches.	Kind.	Length, inches.	Depth, inches.	Width, inches.
1 bushel	18	14½	8½	½ bushel	18	5½	11½
Do.	26	14½	6	¼ bushel	13½	4	10½
Do.	20	10	11½	Tropical-fruit case (for pineapples, etc.)	24½	12	12
¼ bushel	18	7½	8½				
Do.	26	7½	6				

REVIVING THE NATURAL INDIGO INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

[From Consul James Oliver Laing, Karachi, Nov. 10.]

A serious effort is being made in India to provide a lasting market for natural indigo. This was one of the most valuable products of India before synthetic dyes became of commercial value. In recent years the natural indigo production has been reduced; plantations have been abandoned; and many others have had a difficult task to keep their heads above water. The war having cut off Continental synthetic dyes, however, natural indigo has once more come to the front.

Results of Conference to Discuss the Industry.

As far back as last February an indigo conference was held in Delhi to discuss the industry from three standpoints—agricultural, research, and commercial. As a result of this conference a report has just been made by scientists covering the agricultural and botanical side of this industry stating that it can be developed on scientific methods as follows:

- (a) The production of an ample supply of good, well-grown seed at the lowest possible cost and with the least trouble to the planter.
- (b) The production of the maximum yield of indigo and of seed from the plant now grown.
- (c) The improvement of the plant by selection so that the yield of indigo and of seed can be still further increased.
- (d) The preparation of finished indigo, in a standard form of high purity, suitable for the home dyes.
- (e) Indirect improvements, such as the production of more valuable cover crops for Java indigo and the discovery of methods of increasing the efficiency of seed as a manure.

Dyeing Qualities of Natural Indigo.

Perhaps the most important problem for the natural indigo trade to solve is the marketing of the dye in the form most suited to the dyers. Bihar indigo, according to a British dyer whose views are entitled to respect, dyes a fuller shade than either synthetic indigotin or indigos refined from plant indigos. It is further stated that 60 per cent of Bihar indigo dyes a fuller shade than 70 per cent Dutch Java. This statement is interesting because it points to indigotin as differing in its dyeing properties, if not in its chemical composition. The remedial measures suggested by this authority are:

- (a) Selling in paste form, but on standard shade patterns. All other dyes are sold on their shades of color, not on their percentage tests, as has been the case with natural indigo since synthetic indigotin was commercially introduced.
- (b) Applying the practical knowledge gained in the working of the dyers and woad fermentation vats, in which the fermentation is controlled, to the practical working of the planters' fermentation vats, in which the fermentation is not controlled, the experience of the woad fermentation vats proving that without control great losses of the dye will take place.

The authority referred to who, it may be added, is officially connected with the British Dyers' Guild, sums up his recommendation in one single paragraph, which will bear quotation:

Botanical research should continue to the securing of good plant and leaf yield. Chemical research, properly applied, will help further to a better yield at

the mill. Most of all, however, it must be impressed on those whose interests are with natural indigo that they must supply it to the dyers fairly well standardized and in the condition ready for use, just as the synthetic is. The planters, etc., will need to combine to this end. It can easily be done and is of such importance that I say this: If they will not do it, they can close their books as soon as synthetic comes into competition again. If, however, they will do it, they have the industry again, a profitable one, as the reason they were beaten out (almost) before and so quickly was not that synthetic was so much the better value, but that it was supplied in a condition ready for the dyers to use.

Dealers here say that reports have come to them that the indigo plantations of China, particularly in the Nanking district, are being worked after many years of practical abandonment. They do not believe, however, that the Chinese natural-indigo industry will be profitable when normal times return.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Nov. 11.]

Increased Area Under Indigo.

The first indigo forecast for 1915-16 issued by the Department of Statistics of India shows greatly increased sowings of indigo in Madras Province. The total area under indigo in British India this year is estimated at 258,100 acres, of which 31.2 per cent, or 126,000 acres, is sown in Madras Province, as against 38,500 acres estimated at this time last year, or an increase of 212 per cent. The Department of Statistics bulletin says that after allowance has been made for seed of next year probably 113,600 acres of the indigo produced in Madras Province will be used in extracting dye. The districts in which the manufacture of indigo persisted longest and where old vats in moderate state of repair were still available report this year a very great increase in the acreage under the crop—all north of Madras, in the Decan and the East Coast districts.

The fluctuation in the price of groundnut diverted the attention of the cultivators to indigo. At sowing time seed were selling at exceptionally high rates, but very inferior seed were sold, with the result that the germination of many of the earlier crops was poor: and although the season has been generally favorable, this has militated against uniformly good stands. The outturn is estimated roughly at 24,000 hundredweight.

[Previous articles on the subject of the natural-indigo industry of India appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 10, 1914; Jan. 8 and 28 and Oct. 11, 1915.]

TRADE ACROSS BORDER REACHES SONORA MARKET.

[Consul Frederick Simpleh, Nogales, Mexico, Dec. 17.]

A safe way to handle Sonora trade in any proven line is to establish a jobbing house in one of the American border towns, and fill orders promptly, for cash.

No automobile agencies exist in any of the towns of northern Sonora. The use of automobiles and trucks is confined to American miners and ranchers and officials of the State government. Sparse population, poverty, and bad roads are the three main reasons why this district affords no opening for automobile agents. Such few as buy cars merely cross the line to Arizona towns, like Douglas, Tucson, or Nogales, where many agencies are established.

TRADE METHODS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN RUSSIA.

[Weekly Bulletin, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Nov. 22.]

Germany, Great Britain, and the United States, in the order named, being the principal countries from which Russia derives its imports, it is of interest to note the methods used by each to capture the trade of that market.

German manufacturers, after due trial, have abandoned the practice of establishing branch houses in Russia; it proved unprofitable. They subsequently developed the market with travelers, who covered not only the chief cities, like Petrograd, Moscow, Riga, Kief, Odessa, Rostof-on-Don, etc., but also the larger provincial towns. These travelers carried elaborate collections of samples of a wide range of articles, often representing different industries, and, above all, catalogues printed in Russian, with prices in Russian currency. They quoted f. o. b. Russian port or frontier station, and were ready to meet the provincial wholesale dealer and the local stores by quoting similar terms with duty paid and, if pressed, including delivery at the local station. As a further accommodation they conceded extended credits to suit the individual customer, with the aid of the German banks. German success in Russia started from the ability to supply cheap articles for the peasant population; but they were able, through the circumstances of their competition and their clever adaptation of business methods, to obtain gradually the Russian market for better-class articles.

British and American Methods.

Twenty years ago Great Britain practically monopolized the Russian market for manufactured articles, but it has since been overtaken by Germany, owing largely to the latter country's more generous credit terms. Progress was also hampered by ultraconservative methods of business and unwillingness to quote in Russian currency and weights and measures or to follow the German example of quoting delivery at the frontier with duty paid. It is said that the use of travelers to keep in touch with customers was neglected, and that British manufacturers declined to intrust their interests to export houses. Thus the direct business became limited to the largest dealers in the Russian centers, and it might be said that the business Great Britain was doing in Russia until recently was due largely to the fact that British goods were actually demanded by customers rather than that they were pushed. Evidences of a change in this respect are now at hand.

The methods employed by United States manufacturers have been one of the two following: Either to appoint a sole selling agent for Russia and Siberia or to intrust their export trade to exporting houses in the United States and Hamburg, this second method appearing to be more in favor. United States manufacturers have obtained better results with the Hamburg firms than with those in the United States, because the former worked Russia intensively with travelers along the German lines. For the American house thus relieved of Russian credit risks, the business was easy and convenient, but it was necessarily of restricted proportions, the growth of which the manufacturer could not influence. Moreover, the advantage was not obtained of the high prices in Russia. The chief concern of the

German firm was to give his Russian customer a wide choice of goods from all countries, and he had therefore no special reason to push the goods of any particular firm. Like his English colleague, the United States manufacturer was opposed to granting long credits.

Summary of Possible Trade Methods.

The possible methods open to manufacturers proposing to share in Russian trade may be stated as follows:

(1) By correspondence. Business may be done in this way, but it can hardly be recommended as satisfactory. Correspondence would have to be in Russian or French, catalogues printed in Russian would be indispensable, and prices would have to be quoted in rubles c. i. f. Russian port or on railway car, i. e., including sea freight and duty.

(2) Through export houses. This plan of action is of interest only to the manufacturer who wishes to avoid the risks and trouble that a more profitable direct business would involve.

(3) By appointing Russian firms as agents. This is undoubtedly a much more satisfactory plan than the export house, because the prices to wholesalers will be less and the volume of business will consequently be greater. Agents are of two classes:

(a) Those who work on a commission basis, some of whom are ready to undertake a full or partial guarantee of accounts for a corresponding additional commission.

(b) Merchants doing a wholesale business who take the financial risk and quote such prices as they think necessary.

There are many such agents in Russia. Before the war the majority of the more desirable already represented manufacturers and were not free. It is believed that now the difficulty of securing suitable representatives may be overcome, though many of the best agents, who were of German nationality, have left the country.

(4) Through a resident representative of grouped industries, correlated but not intercompetitive. While the initial expenditure for such a representative would be large, by being shared it would fall lightly on the individual firms interested. After the arrangements for agencies in the centers had been made and were in working order, a periodical supervision at longer or shorter intervals should suffice. There are two examples of this method in Russia that are working satisfactorily—one American and the other British. The former represents a combination of hardware and tool manufacturers, which included at the outset 20 firms and has since been increased to 62. The organization is financed by a prominent New York banking house, through which all payments by the agents in Russia are made. A representative visits annually the 15 centers at which the "com-bino" maintains its agents, who are mainly merchants buying on open account and not on commission. The British concern handles general machinery and maintains its own local representatives, who are Russian-speaking Englishmen having a technical knowledge of engineering.

Distribution of Imports in Russia.

The distribution of imports in Russia is in the hands of two or three classes of wholesale houses, all of which are grouped in a few of the chief cities. Moscow is preeminent as a center of this character and handles about 50 per cent of Russian imports. The general

character of the imports handled by Moscow are of a class that appeals to a peasant market, as against the business transacted from Petrograd, where the trade is of a high standard and where Government purchases and contracts are settled for the whole Empire. The large cities have wholesale houses, which employ travelers to work the surrounding Provinces. The orders as received are combined and transferred to the foreign manufacturers concerned, the merchants themselves carrying very little stock. Wholesale houses in the Provinces are few in number and of relatively small account. The wholesale dealers in the cities sell direct to the provincial retailers. The selling firms belong to the class that offer exclusively the goods of the foreign manufacturers they represent.

Another class of wholesalers have no travelers and rely upon catalogues; they have their regular clientele throughout the Provinces, mainly retailers, who effect their purchases by correspondence or in person. A few other firms have branch houses in different towns in Russia, which send out travelers in their respective districts, but these firms specialize, as a rule, in a few lines. All wholesalers do a large retail trade with users of goods, such as factories, railroads, etc. Travelers for the Provinces carry ample collections of samples, together with catalogues. Their catalogues are of two kinds; some houses issue only retail catalogues and sell at the prices quoted, less a certain discount, whereas others issue wholesale catalogues only and sell at net prices to provincial dealers, these wholesale catalogues being restricted to the trade.

The Far Eastern business, in the Transbaikal and Amur regions, is in the hands of a few large firms with headquarters at Vladivostok. It is a specialized business not touched by the ordinary Russian houses. The Vladivostok firms do a large trade with their magnificent stores and well organized wholesale departments, sending out travelers who cover the whole of the Far East. Each of the largest two has a purchasing house in Moscow, and one has also a house in London. Vladivostok is suggested as a good place for representation on the group plan.

Granting of Credit Necessary.

In Russian dealings the question of credit is of great importance and calls for careful investigation. The Russian wholesaler is compelled to allow his customer credit in practically all lines, sometimes for as much as 12 months. A cash payment of not more than 25 to 30 per cent is common. In many cases, however, the wholesaler is satisfied if his client will pay railway freight and expenses to destination. Manufacturers should be prepared to grant liberal credits to dealers—3, 6, 9, or 12 months, according to the article and the customer. Thus the foreign manufacturer is asked to help to carry trade, because the majority of the wholesale dealers have not sufficient capital to pay for their imports until the ultimate users of these goods, in the main the peasant consumers, are able to discharge their obligations to the retailer, which they can do only after gathering the crops. As has been seen, the German houses were assisted by the cooperation of the banks in meeting the situation. Careful investigation of the credit position of wholesalers is of unusual importance, even in the case of large buyers. Commercial law in Russia is still in the formative stage; the recovery of debts is surrounded

with difficulties, and procedure in Russian courts, while just and sure, is slow. A good deal may be effected, however, by tactful pressure and compromise. Sales made on the installment plan are considered safe, and are generally adopted in the case of machinery, which remains the property of the vendor until the last cent has been paid.

The building up of an export trade is at best a slow process, but there is no question that with ordinary caution and judgment it should be possible to make solid connections in Russia and develop a stable and profitable business for some of the many lines of supplies that are indispensable to the Russian people.

AMERICAN GLASS IN WALES.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Swansea, Dec. 3.]

Owing to the curtailment of continental supplies of glass a brisk trade in American glassware has developed recently. Local merchants speak highly of the careful packing of American glass and also report that the quality of American plate glass is excellent, and, although the sheet glass in certain instances contains more defects than the Belgian, it is fairly satisfactory.

There is, however, considerable dissatisfaction over the methods of payment required by American dealers, and several Swansea merchants are of the opinion that the recently won trade in American plate and sheet glass will immediately revert to Belgium at the end of hostilities.

It appears that Belgian dealers allowed three months' credit or 14 per cent cash against receipt of documents, while it is stated that American exporters usually require whole or part payment at the time of order, which, in the instances under observation, amounted to settlement of the account a month or six weeks prior to the receipt of the merchandise.

British dealers are willing to furnish financial references, pay cash against the receipt of documents, and a small premium for long credits, but the present usage is contrary to the precedents of the trade established by continental dealers and will hardly prove adequate to retain present customers when normal conditions prevail.

SWEDISH COMMERCIAL PROGRESS IN RUSSIA.

[Consul General Ernest L. Harris, Stockholm, Nov. 30.]

There are many indications that Swedish business men are determined to utilize the present situation in order to get well established in Russia as soon as the war closes. With this object in view a Swedish newspaper is to be published in Petrograd, as well as an early establishment of a Swedish chamber of commerce. A short time after the outbreak of the war in 1914 an enterprising firm in this city started the publication of a Russian newspaper in Stockholm. It is reported that a committee of organization for the chamber of commerce in Petrograd has already been named.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

[Where addresses are omitted they may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.]

Motor trucks, No. 19696.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that a firm in his district is interested in motor trucks of from 1 to 2 tons capacity, and desires to receive catalogues, prices, and discounts. Correspondence may be in English.

Buttons, No. 19697.—A report from an American consular officer in China states that a firm desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of porcelain buttons. Only c. i. f. quotations will be accepted. Bank references are given.

Machinery, No. 19698.—A firm of commission agents in South America informs an American consular officer that it desires to correspond with manufacturers and exporters of aerated water machinery. Agencies for several countries are desired. Correspondence may be in English or Spanish, and quotations may be made f. o. b. New York.

Corsets and corset covers, No. 19699.—A merchant in Denmark desires to communicate with American manufacturers of corsets and corset covers. Correspondence may be in English.

Sulphate of copper, zinc wire, iron bars, etc., No. 19700.—An importing agency in Portugal informs an American consular officer that it desires to purchase sulphate of copper, zinc wire, iron bars for construction purposes; iron wire for nails, quebracho extract, liquid or solid; iron sheets, refined sugar, etc. Catalogues and price lists, together with full information, are desired.

Paper bags, No. 19701.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that samples of paper bags of various sizes and qualities are desired. Prices, c. i. f. port of destination, should be quoted, if possible.

Printing ink, paper, stationery, etc., No. 19702.—A representative of a firm in Brazil, which deals in metal types and printing machinery, desires to obtain an agency for manufactures of printing ink, printing paper, stationery, metal plates, and bronze powder for engraving, etc. Bank references are given.

Photographic and optical goods, wrapping paper, tobacco, No. 19703.—A firm of commission merchants in British Guiana desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of photographic and optical goods, wrapping paper, and tobacco. Correspondence may be in English or Spanish, and prices quoted f. o. b. New York.

Moving-picture films, No. 19704.—A director of a moving-picture establishment in the Far East desires to purchase second-hand films of all kinds. Comic scenes are preferred. Correspondence in French is preferred, but not essential.

Needles, No. 19705.—A report from an American consular officer in China states that an importing commission house desires to establish commercial relations with manufacturers of needles in sizes 1 to 12, with 25 needles in each packet, which should be wrapped in tin foil with brown paper on the outside; 40 packets to a bundle, and 10 bundles packed in air-tight hermetically sealed tins with 25 tins to a tin-lined case. Only c. i. f. quotations will be accepted. Bank references are given.

Machine tools, light railway locomotives, motorcycles, etc., No. 19706.—A commercial agent of the bureau reports that a firm in the United States desires quotations on machine tools, light railway locomotives, motorcycles, gas and oil engines, hardware of all descriptions, electrical goods, electrical machinery, and steel and iron sections for a firm in Siam.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

New York, Room 409 United States Customhouse; Boston, eighteenth floor United States Customhouse; Chicago, 504 Federal Building; St. Louis, 402 Third National Bank Building; Atlanta, 521 Post Office Building; New Orleans, 1020 Hibernia Bank Building; San Francisco, 306 United States Customhouse; Seattle, 922 Alaska Building. Cooperative district offices: Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce; Cincinnati, Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles, Chamber of Commerce; Detroit, Board of Commerce; Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Supplies, No. 2865.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, United States Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until January 4, 1916, for furnishing and delivering prunes, evaporated peaches, lard substitute, oleomargarine, sirup, breakfast bacon, cheese, R. & G. coffee, sugar-cured ham, sales lard, listerine, tapioca, and effervescent water.

Surgical instruments, No. 2866.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse "D," Transport Dock, Fort Mason, body hot-air apparatus, Betz No. 8NS70, equipped with gas heaters; electric light bath cabinet, with mirrors and foot warmer, Betz No. 9N2063; and pack table, with Tennessee marble top, Betz No. 6N693.

Signal Corps supplies, No. 2867.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until January 6, 1916, for furnishing telephones, condensers, connecting plugs, and complete ringers.

Subsistence supplies, No. 2868.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, Kansas City, Mo., or at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, United States Army, Omaha, Nebr., until January 4, 1916, for furnishing and delivering breakfast bacon, sugar-cured ham, and sales lard.

Construction work, No. 2869.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 31, 1916, for the construction complete of the surgeon's and attendants' quarters and a morgue for the United States Marine Hospital, Key West, Fla. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Key West or from the Supervising Architect, Washington.

Tin cans for sale, No. 2870.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., for the purchase of empty 5-gallon round tin cans in wooden boxes. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Navy Department supplies, No. 2871.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for supplying the following. Firms desiring to submit proposals should make application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, giving schedule numbers desired: Schedule 9162, acetylene and oxygen tanks and equipment; schedule 9163, furnishing and erecting passenger and freight elevator; schedule 9164, flexible metallic hose, merchantable spruce, acid-proof stoneware, etc., glass acid traps and tubes, mineral wool, sheet copper, and cold-drawn machinery steel; schedule 9165, 12-inch powder conveyor hoists; schedule 9166, electrically operated ice-cream freezers; schedule 9167, portable ship lighting cable, and chestnut and oak railroad ties; schedule 9168, chemical sounding tubes; schedule 9169, pig lead, hot rolled or forged carbon steel, special carbon steel, and pure sperm oil; schedule 9170, rubber fire hose, plate-glass mirrors, wrought pipe, 32 and 36 inch mattress ticking, steel bolts and nuts, and rod copper; schedule 9171, paint drier, lampblack in oil, white lead in oil, raw and boiled linseed oil, aluminum mixing varnish; schedule 9172, steel boiler tubes, sheet brass, and castor oil; schedule 9173, pig iron; schedule 9174, candles, rubber wash deck hose, chrome green in oil, and aluminum paint; schedule 9175, portable platform scales, steel cup screws, and brass machine and wood screws; schedule 9176, engine-room clocks, and angle and gate valves; schedule 9177, accumulator pumps and accessories; schedule 9178, worm-gearage chain blocks; schedule 9179, furnishing and installing cold-storage insulation (cork); schedule 9180, 12-inch by 14-inch emery grinders, handworkers' lathes, 24-inch drill presses, 26-inch band saws, and 12-inch saw tables; and schedule 9181, electric food grinders.

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TO

COMMERCE REPORTS

FOR

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